

DaVinci Connection

November 5, 2014
Volume 4, Issue 7



Dear Lee,

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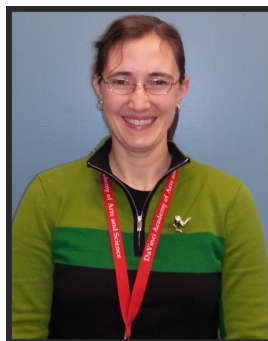
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Introducing Laura Kozamchak, New Vocal Music Teacher



My name is Laura Kozamchak, and I am the new vocal music teacher at DaVinci Academy. I am pleased to be here and have enjoyed working with your students this past week. They have welcomed me warmly, helped me start to learn the "ropes" at DaVinci, and have demonstrated their love of singing and music. I have had the opportunity to teach each of my classes once since I started, and I cannot wait to continue next week and beyond.

My focus for all music classes (grades K-4) next week will be singing new songs, playing instruments in class, and exploring and reviewing the elements of music. My focus for all choirs (grade 5-8) will be polishing the repertoire they have started, and developing ensemble and resonance as we sing.

I look forward to getting to know you and your students as the year progresses, and I especially look forward to the music they will make. Please feel free to [email me](#) or stop by the music room to say hello!

Welcome New Paraprofessional, Felisha Mannino

I am a proud mom of two girls, age 15 and 11, and a son who is 6. I have two small dogs and a pair of sugar gliders. I enjoy the outdoors, watching football, baking, doing crafts, anything with

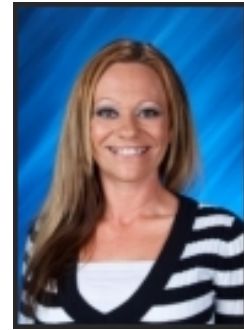
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School Links

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my family. I like music of all kinds, word quotes, and taking pictures. My favorite color is pink. I am happy to be a part of DaVinci Academy! Aim for the moon, but reach for the stars.



Important Dates

11/6 - End of 1st
Trimester

11/7 - No School (grading
day)

11/7 - School Play, "The
Humor Games," 6:30 pm

11/8 - School Play, "The
Humor Games," 11:00 am

11/10 - Curriculum
Committee, 5:00 pm

11/10 - Finance
Committee, 6:30 pm

11/11 - High School Info
Meeting, 6:00 pm

11/12 - Policy Committee,
3:30 pm

11/17 - School Board
Meeting, 6:00 pm

11/20 - Spaghetti
Dinner/Silent Auction,
5:30 pm

11/24-28 - No School

12/1 - School Resumes

12/1 - School
Development Committee,
6:00 pm

12/1 - HR/Compensation
Committee, 7:00 pm

Outstanding Teacher Awards



Each year, the WEM Foundation partners with Synergy to recognize outstanding educators.

The Teacher Achievement Awards

recognize exemplary teachers who support, inspire, and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement. Candidates demonstrate exceptional command of their subject area; keep course content current by integrating new technology, research and innovations; support active, hands-on and continuous learning for all students; and effectively use differentiated instruction. They facilitate parental and community involvement in the classroom, incorporate student-developed goals and plans for achievement, display leadership and perform professional service outside of the classroom, and have commendable professional educational accomplishments.

If you would like to nominate a DaVinci Academy teacher, administrator, or coach for this award, you can find out more information at <http://synergyexchange.org/Celebrate/WEM.aspx>. This document outlines the criteria you may consider when choosing a nominee. The deadline is December 5, 2014.

"The Humor Games" - School Play Performances on November 7 & 8

12/8 - Curriculum
Committee, 5:00 pm

12/8 - Finance
Committee, 6:30 pm

12/10 - Policy Committee,
3:30 pm



Mark your calendars! "The Humor Games," a parody of The Hunger Games book and movie series, will be performed on Friday, November 7 (6:30 pm) and Saturday, November 8 (11:00 am), at DaVinci Academy.

When Katskills Wintergreen takes a pie in the face for her little sister, Dim, she enters herself into the Humor Games, a comedy battle to the death. Her knack for impressions is all that stands between her and failure – that and her faithful co-competitor Tweeta Mellish, who ropes her into a romcom, and her childhood friend Gable Sevenhouse, a member of the collective resistance against evil President Nobiz L. Shobiz. In this slapstick parody of The Hunger Games, who will have the last laugh?

The cast features students from grades 4th-8th grade. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. Don't miss this great comedy from the young actors of DaVinci Academy!





Outdoor Winter Recess

The temperature is starting to drop. Kindergarten through 5th grade students go outside for recess throughout the whole school year unless it's raining or the temperature is below zero, including wind chill. Please remember to dress your child for the colder weather. This includes snow pants for the younger students, along with boots, hats, and gloves. Recess lasts about 25 minutes. Labeling all items with your student's name or initials is highly recommended and reduces the number of unclaimed items in our lost and found cabinet.



Our recesses are divided into three groups: 10:40-11:05 (4th and 5th grade), 11:10-11:35 (2nd and 3rd grade), and 11:35-12:00 (K and 1st grade). To help keep our students safe, we have divided the playground into three zones. We have assigned staff members to each zone.

Our top priority during recess is to keep our students safe. Some common rules for all recesses are listed below:

- Be respectful to other students and staff
- Be responsible for playground equipment
- Rocks, sticks, and snow must stay on the ground
- Students need to stay in the designated recess zones
- Keep your hands and body to yourself
- Be safe at all times

Introducing Weather and Other Alerts via SCHOOLMESSENGER®

DaVinci Academy has recently contracted with SchoolMessenger, a leading provider of notification services for schools. We will use the SchoolMessenger system to alert you, via email, SMS text messaging, and/or phone calls, when we are closing school for a snow day, opening late, have a last minute change in the extracurricular activities schedule, or other "need-to-know" messages. The system will also create an automated phone call to alert you if your child is absent from school.

For now, we are reserving the SchoolMessenger communication system for these two needs: a) emergency/immediate alerts, and b) attendance alerts. We will schedule a "test" message soon to make sure we are prepared for potential snow days or other communication needs.

The system relies on the phone numbers and email addresses that are in PowerSchool. For that reason, it is critical that we have current and accurate phone numbers and email addresses in our system. **Please take a moment now to access your PowerSchool Parent Portal to check for accuracy.** *Please note*, we were only able to upload two contact phone numbers per adult. Most likely you will see a home and work/day number. You will however, have the ability to change or add contact phone numbers while editing your School Messenger contact information.

If you are not able to log on to PowerSchool, please email [Stephanie Baciglaupo](mailto:Stephanie.Baciglaupo). You can find the Parent Portal Link on the school website under "Current Families" tab, select the "PowerSchool" link. Or you can go directly from [here](#).

1. Click on the School Messenger icon located on the right side of the blue bar.



2. Select Contact Manager

3. Click on the Contacts tab

4. Under Actions, click on Edits

5. Add or update phone, email or SMS text information as needed, then click Save. If no changes are needed just click the Save button

If you would like to receive text messages you will also need to enter the phone number in the SMS field. School Messenger does not charge recipients for the text messages that they receive or send; however, wireless providers may charge for individual text messages depending on the plan associated with the wireless device.

Please note - any changes in the SchoolMessenger contacts will **not** update your phone numbers or email addresses at school. If your contact information in SchoolMessenger is incorrect, please

contact the school office.

SchoolMessenger is an addition to our current methods of communication, not a replacement. As in the past, we will also post school closings on our web site and broadcast on WCCO radio (830 AM) and local television channels. We are listed as DaVinci Academy and are separate from Anoka-Hennepin ISD or any other school district. We will try to make a decision to close school by 6:00 am on the day in question. The school cannot be responsible for students who arrive at school or at bus stops in spite of these announcements. If you have any question as to whether school is in session that day, check the [school web site](#).

Our hope is that SchoolMessenger will make our alerts more efficient and effective for families. Please take time to check that your phone and address information are accurate in PowerSchool.

Session II Extra-curricular Activities

Please note that the sign-up forms for Session II extra-curricular activities are **due by this Friday, November 7**. Fees must be paid before your child is enrolled in the activity. This includes basketball.

View sign-up form [here](#)!

If you have questions concerning the activities or you would like to discuss a payment plan for the fees, please contact [Terry Moffatt](#).

High School Meeting for 8th Grade Families on November 11

This is a reminder that we will be holding an information evening for eighth grade parents and students on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00. We will have a few former students on hand to talk about their experience with high school and to answer any questions that students or parents may have. Parents will also have the opportunity to sign up for individual meetings with Ms. Moffatt to discuss options for each student.



If you have any questions regarding the information session, contact [Terry Moffatt](#).



GIVE TO THE MAX DAY, operated by [GiveMN](#), is an annual day for Minnesotans to come together to support Minnesota nonprofits and schools. DaVinci Academy is again participating in this philanthropic event. We hope to raise \$5,000 to support our arts, science, and extracurricular programs.

Effective today, you may schedule your gift on GiveMN to be transacted on November 13. Every gift made on November 13 helps our chances of winning a \$1,000 Golden Ticket! By partnering with GiveMN, an online giving website for Minnesota nonprofits, we will have 25 chances to maximize your gift on Give to the Max Day. Additionally, at the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket!

If you plan to donate to DaVinci Academy during 2014, we hope you will join us for the exciting 24 hour annual Give to the Max Day. Your generous support makes a meaningful difference to our students.

Don't forget to check with your employer to see if your company makes matching gifts. We receive donations every year through matching gift programs.

Please go [here](#) to donate or read our story! Thank you for everything you do to support the school.

Feel free to share our donation page on facebook and twitter! The url is: <https://givemn.org/organization/Davinci-Academy-Of-Arts-And-Science>

SPARK Leadership Team

Introducing our new SPARK Leadership Team! Starting in Trimester 2 these middle school students, who are leaders in our community showing SPARK every day, will be meeting during Advisory period to brainstorm ways of growing our SPARK program. Mr. Lundahl, Ms. Platisha and Mr. Manthe have some great ideas that they can't wait to start working on.



Featured on Nerdy Book Blog

By [Stephanie Severson](#)

I was a contributing writer to the Nerdy Book Blog on October 18. My writing focused on big books for voracious readers who happen to be boys. Link to the article: Nerdybookclub.com.

This is the second article I've published with Nerdy Book Club; publishers and authors that I mention are starting to pay attention. I have been receiving donations from authors, as well as advanced reading copies from publishers. All of those books end up on my shelf for your students. I do my best to keep the new books flowing into my classroom for all my voracious readers, but I still need parent and community support. How can you help?

You can help by ordering from Scholastic book orders as they come home, or by ordering online. My classroom code is KTDNR. You can help with Amazon gift cards. I order from Amazon a lot and use the re-sellers listed to purchase used books in good condition. I also use Amazon and Barnes and Noble gift cards to fill the eight e-readers that have been donated to my classroom. I also love to support local bookstores, and often purchase from The Red Balloon in St. Paul. Having new books in a classroom tells students that their reading is important and their requests for books are important. Please consider donating to your own student's class bookshelf!

Winter Vocal Music Concerts Postponed

Due to the timing of hiring a new vocal music teacher, we have decided to postpone the vocal music portion of the winter concerts. This includes all of the classrooms, choirs and the chamber choir. The instrumental concerts will continue as scheduled. We will keep you informed as to when the vocal

concerts will be rescheduled. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Trading & Pokemon Cards

This is a reminder that we do not allow students to have Pokemon cards - or any kind of trading cards or games - at school. These cards tend to cause numerous types of issues and disruptions at school and we prefer that they be left at home. If students do have the cards at school, the teacher will keep them until the end of the day and then the child will be able to take them home. If the cards return, a parent will need to come in to get the cards at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

Student Highlight: 3-on-3 Basketball Success

On October 26, a team of DaVinci Academy basketball players took 2nd place (in their age group) at the Midwest 3-on-3 Fall Tournament at Champlin Park High School. Team members included 6th graders Janessa B. and Natalie B., and 5th graders Grace P. and Afia Z. Congratulations!



PTO News

See the most recent [PTO newsletter](#) for information on the upcoming **Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction** on November 20.

Culvers will be back by popular demand!
\$2 per serving.



Print this [Order Form](#) to pre-order your tickets. Each pre-ordered ticket will come with a free Culver's ice cream to be redeemed at the spaghetti dinner.

This is a fantastic and fun event to assist with and attend! Please get involved one way or another.

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

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