

DaVinci Connection

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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.)

8th Grade - High School Planning, Now is the Time!

On November 11, we held an information meeting for eighth grade students and their parents. Six former students were on hand to talk about their experience with high school and to answer parent and student questions. Parents had the opportunity to sign up for individual meetings with Ms. Moffatt to discuss options for each student and handouts were distributed that provided useful information on many of the area high schools.

Important note: Regardless of what high school you intend to send your student to next year, now is the time to contact that school and find out how and when to register. Registration and class selections for many high schools in the area happens in February and March of the prior year. Because your child currently attends DaVinci Academy and not your child's home-district school, you will need to either get them on their home district school's list for 9th grade or open enroll them at an out-of-district school. Open enrollment applications are usually required to be submitted in January. Check with your chosen school soon!

If you would like to obtain a copy of the handouts provided at the informational meeting or sign up for individual meetings to discuss your specific child and their options, please contact [Terry Moffatt](#).

Important Dates

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

12/8 - Curriculum
Committee, 5:00 pm

12/8 - Finance
Committee, 6:30 pm

12/9 - Prospective Family
Information Night, 6:00
pm

12/10 - Policy Committee,
3:30 pm

Extended Vacations & Homework

By Terry Moffatt

Please note that our Comprehensive Attendance Policy states the following: "Family vacations, although valuable, usually put a child behind academically if instructional days are missed. Vacations should be scheduled during regular school breaks. Teachers are not expected nor required to prepare assignments ahead of time for days missed due to vacations."

Please contact [Ms. Moffatt](#) with any questions.

Help Wanted - Facilities Committee

The School Board has formed an ad hoc Facilities Committee, and we are looking for volunteers. Our initial goal is to identify and address the facility challenges and needs of our current and future K-8 programming. We welcome parents and staff with interest and/or experience in helping to address the needs of our growing programs.

If you are interested in joining, please contact info@davincicharterschool.org to put your name on our mailing list for the Facilities Committee. We plan to hold our first meeting within the next month, so watch for news of our meeting schedule. Thanks for supporting our successful programs as we continue to grow.

Outstanding Teacher Awards



The deadline is coming up to get your nomination in for an outstanding DaVinci educator. One of our teachers has already been nominated and was so honored by the recognition. There are many more amazing teachers here at DaVinci, so please take a moment and go to the website below to give a teacher a pat on the the back.

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.

Middle School Science Fair Results



6th Grade Winners: Ellie K, Natalie B, Leah S & Janessa B



7th Grade Winners: Boatemaa A, Avaree S, Natalie H, Emma S



8th Grade Winners: Alexis B, Claire Y, Shawn C & Faith B

Hand Warmers Needed

Last year, a few families donated hand warmers to the teachers and administrators who work outside with the children or help with the pick up and drop off process each day. Because disposable hand warmers last for 10 hours, we found that we could pass them off to each other depending on who was going outside, and it was a great help on those really cold days. If you see hand warmers on sale anywhere, please pick up a few to donate. Thank you.

Thank you to all of the generous donors who contributed a total of \$2,460 to DaVinci Academy on Give to the Max Day! This amount exceeded the contributions from last year. If you made any donations to DaVinci Academy, please check with your employer to see if they provide matching funds. This is just one more way you can support our school!

If you have questions on giving, please contact Ms. [Debra Lach](#).

Overdue Library Books

By [Miranda TenNapel](#)

If your student has overdue library books, look for a slip of paper that will come home with him/her this week, before Thanksgiving break. Please take the break to look for their books. Reminder of library policy: Students can only have 2 books checked out at a time; if a book is lost or destroyed, there is a \$10 replacement fee per book (unless you choose to replace the book on your own). If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. Thank you, and have a great break!

School Lunch Accounts

By [Lee Swearingen](#)

Have you ever wondered how your child's lunch account balance is calculated? Let's take a few minutes to explain how it works and where you can find more details on their lunch balance.

[Deposits/Credits](#) - Your child's lunch account is used to pay for pre-ordered meals, emergency meals, and a la carte items such as milk only purchases or extra slices of pizza on pizza days. Deposits should be made to your child's lunch account: 1) when a meal order is placed, 2) if funds are needed for milk only

purchases, 3) if your child receives an emergency meal.

Purchases/Charges - Although we require that you pay for meals when you place your advance order, your child's lunch account will be charged only when they receive a meal or a la carte items. Therefore, if you ordered and paid for 20 meals for the month of October, you will be charged a lunch fee only on the days your child takes a meal. For example, if your child was absent from school two days, you would only see charges for the 18 meals they took, not the 20 they ordered. The money you sent for the remaining two meals will stay in your child's account to be used toward future purchases.

Lunch Fees - The fee for student lunches is \$3.50. This price includes milk, but students are not required to take a milk with each meal; it is simply one of the lunch components offered. The components of a school lunch are meat/meat alternative, grain, fruit, vegetable, and dairy/milk. If your student or family has been approved for free/reduced price meals, there is no cost for lunch this year; you are, however, still required to pre-order their meals each month.

The fees for the a la carte items are \$0.50 for milk and \$1.50 for an extra slice of pizza on pizza day. The fee for an emergency meal is also \$1.50. An emergency meal (usually a PB&J sandwich, milk, and fruit) is provided when a child does not pre-order a meal for the day, and they forget to bring a lunch from home. The fees for these items apply to all students who receive these items and are not part of the free/reduced price lunch program.

Please see the nutrition web page for additional information about the nutrition program or to obtain an application for free/reduced priced meals.

This institution and the USDA are equal opportunity employers and providers

PTO News

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

