

# DaVinci Connection

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## 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.)

## Upcoming State Basketball Tournaments



It is time again for the MYAS State Basketball Tournaments. This coming weekend, March 7th and 8th, is the Girls' State Tournament. We have two teams competing. The fifth grade girls team, coached by Abby Pullman, will be playing at Fridley Middle School. Their first game is at 1:50 on Saturday and then, win or lose, they play again at 5:20. The seventh grade girls team, coached by Melissa Kaiser, are playing at Hidden Oaks Middle School in Prior Lake. Their first game is at 4:10 on Saturday afternoon. If they win that game, they will play again at 9:00 on Sunday morning. If they lose the first game, they play again at 7:40 on Saturday evening.

The next weekend, March 14th and 15th, we have two boys' teams participating. The eighth grade team, coached by Doug Hiatt, will be playing at Jordan High School. Their first game is at 4:00 on Saturday. If they win, they play again at 6:20 and if they lose the first game, they play again at 7:30. The sixth grade boys, coached by Mark Slechta, are playing at Champlin High School. Their first game is at 6:30 on Saturday evening. If they win, they play again at 9:10 on Sunday morning. If they lose, they play at 8:50 Saturday evening.

The players and coaches always appreciate fan support, so come out and cheer for our DaVinci teams!

## (K-8) Parent Teacher Conferences

Spring conferences will be held on **March 17th and March 19th from 3:30-8:00 p.m.** Families of Kindergarten through third\*

## Important Dates

3/9 - Technology  
Committee, 5:00 pm

3/9 - School  
Development Com., 5:30  
pm

3/9 - Finance Committee,  
6:00 pm

3/16 - Board Meeting,  
6:00 pm

3/17 & 3/19 -  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences, 3:30 - 8:00  
pm

3/20 - No School

3/24 - 4&5 Art Show,  
5:00 - 6:30 pm

3/24 - Talent Show, 6:30  
pm

grade students may call the office to sign up for a 15 minute time slot with the teacher. Those conferences will be held in the classroom. Conferences with fourth through eighth grade teachers and specialists will be conducted in the gym on a drop in basis again. 7:00-8:00 both nights will be reserved for families who have been invited by the 4/5 or middle school team of teachers for a group conference.

\*Special Note: **Ms. Zender** will be unavailable for conferences on the 17th and the 19th. Please contact her directly to arrange an alternate conference time.

Please call Brenda at 763-754-6577 to reserve your K-3 conference time or to ask any questions.

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## (Grades 5-8) Talent Show

([Ms. Platisha](#) and [Mr. Lundahl](#) )

Now is the time to try out for the annual Talent Show. The performance will be held on March 24, at 6:30 pm, directly following the 4th & 5th grade Art Show. Information on tryouts is listed below:

# TALENT SHOW TRYOUTS!!

CALLING ALL DAVINCI STUDENTS,  
GRADES 5-8!!



DO YOU SING?  
DO YOU DANCE?  
DO YOU PLAY IN A  
SWEET BAND?  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
ALL THAT TALENT &  
WAY MORE!



**SHOW UP FOR TRYOUTS!**

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER SCHOOL IN  
MR. LUNDAHL'S ROOM  
SIGN UP BY THE GYM  
BATHROOMS**

**\*TALK TO MR. LUNDAHL OR MS. PLATISHA IF YOU  
NEED TO SCHEDULE AN ALTERNATE TRY-OUT TIME\***

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## (K-8) Dollars for DaVinci Kick-Off

([Ms. Kaiser](#))

Please help us make the annual golf tournament the most successful yet! Your child will be coming home with a letter to start your help with the golf tournament.

Please look over the information and decide how your family is going to get involved!

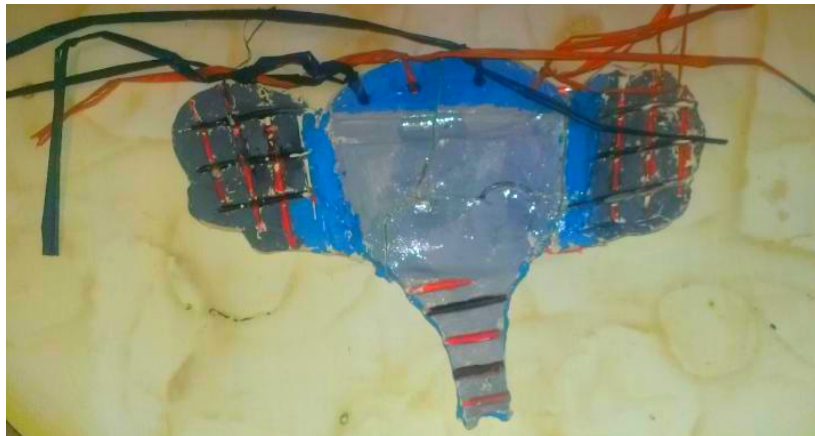
Dollars for DaVinci runs through the end of March.

Hope to see you at the golf tournament on Friday, June 12th!

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## (Grades 4-5) Art Show, 3/24

Come one, come all, to the 4th and 5th grade art show extravaganza! Our exhibition features a wide variety of art media and themes from Cubism to insects, clay to paint and more. It will take place on Tuesday, March 24 from 5-6:30pm. We hope to see you there!







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Continental Math League Update

This year, we have over 75 students in Grades 2 - 8 participating in Continental Math League. This is a national math competition that consists of five tests for Grades 4 - 8 and three tests for Grades 2 - 3. These tests are taken at various times throughout the school year and then are submitted for scoring through the Continental Math League. Students in Grades 3 - 8 have just completed their fourth test and Grades 2 - 3 have completed their second. The results thus far are very exciting.

In second grade, our students are ranked 10th out of 219 schools. Our third grade team has submitted two perfect team scores, so they are at the top of 361 schools. The fourth graders are in the top 20 percent of 191 schools and fifth grade is in the top 28% of 196 schools. Sixth grade is ranked 21st out of 166 teams and our 7th/8th grade team is 32nd out of 129 schools. We have 13 students who have managed a perfect score on each test so far and all of the students participating are at or above the national average score.

This is a tremendous feat and we are looking for a strong finish from all of our teams. The last test will be held on Thursday, March 12.

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## (Grades 6-8) Second Helpings for Lunch - Trial Run

In an effort to reduce food waste and provide more to eat to those students that want it, we will begin offering second helpings of the main meal component to students in the last lunch service (grades 6 to 8). **The charge for a second helping will be \$1.50.** If you do not want your child to take a second helping of lunch, please discuss this with them. The lunch room staff will not maintain a list off "approved" students; if your 6th, 7th or 8th grader purchases a second helping, their lunch account will be charged and parents will be expected to pay the additional amount. Please note, this option may not be available every day or to every student; it is based solely on the amount of food remaining after each pre-ordered meal is served. This option will begin on a trial basis on Monday, March 9 and is subject to change or discontinuation at any time.

If you have any questions on this, please contact [Mrs. Swearingen](#) directly.

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## Board Election Results

[\(Ross Meisner\)](#)

I'm pleased to share the DaVinci Academy board election results and current board membership with you. The election went smoothly and three new board members were elected. In addition, we had two recent parent resignations and one pre-existing parent seat vacancy, and we were able to appoint three parents who were in the election but did not win a seat.

The election results were:

- 1) Teacher seat (replacing Mike Hebert): Nicole Brown, DaVinci science teacher
- 2) At-large seat (replacing Doug Hiatt): Matt Manning, a parent
- 3) Community seat (held by Dale Lieb): Dale Lieb, community member, re-elected

Three parents appointed to vacant seats were:

- 1) Stacey Persons, parent
- 2) Mike Kelley, parent
- 3) Andy Wallschlaeger, parent

Here is a table summarizing the current DaVinci Academy board members and officer positions:

SEAT ROLE		TERM (Feb.)	NAME	JOINED POSITION	
A	Teacher	2014-2017	Erin Nelson	Aug-14	Secretary
B	Teacher	2015-2018	Nicole Brown	Feb-15	Member
C	Community	2015-2018	Dale Lieb	May-11	Member
D	Parent	2013-2016	Stacey Persons	Feb-15	Vice Pres
E	Community	2013-2016	Valerie Slaymaker	Jan-15	Member
F	Parent	2014-2017	Andy Wallschlaeger	Feb-15	Member
G	Parent	2014-2017	Mike Keeley	Feb-15	Member
H	At-Large	2013-2016	Ross Meisner	Feb-13	President
I	At-Large	2015-2018	Matt Manning	Feb-15	Member
	Exec. Dir.	n/a	Debra Lach	Jul-13	Ex-Officio
	Volunteer	n/a	Doug Hiatt		Treasurer

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## Board Clerk position available

Are you looking for a way to become involved with the school board but are not ready to commit to being a member of the board? Would you like to volunteer for our school but are not available during the day? The School Board is seeking candidates for a Board Clerk to assist the Secretary with taking notes during all monthly and special board meetings. This is a great way to become familiar with the inner workings of our school board in a low-key manner. In general, this person will be responsible for documenting attendance of members and guests and recording discussions, action items and motions. Candidates must have excellent typing skills and knowledge of Microsoft Word, be willing

to attend all scheduled monthly board meetings (usually scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month, starting at 6pm) and, if possible, special board meetings. Please note, the person in this position is not eligible to participate in any board discussion nor vote on motions.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact [Ms. Nelson](#) or [Mrs. Swearingen](#).

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## Seeking a Craftsman

Ms. Moffatt has designed a plexiglass, hinged display case to show off the many pictures she takes during activities and events. Now we just need to find the right person to build three of them! If you are skilled with woodworking or are just plain crafty, and you have the time to commit to this project, please contact [Ms. Moffatt](#) to discuss.

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## 2015-2016 School Year Calendar

See the approved calendar for next year [here](#).

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## Planning for College? Check Out these Upcoming Classes!

Classes are being offered through South Washington County Community Education at Cottage Grove Middle School on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

(click class title for registration information and sign up)

### [\*\*Crazy Clever Ways to Pay for College - Starting in Middle School\*\*](#)

Applying for federal financial aid and scholarships - that's just the beginning! Did you know that there are 28 other things you can do to significantly reduce the amount you will pay for your child's college education during the college years? Use every strategy possible to help your child graduate as near to debt free as possible. This class was designed with the help of a certified financial planner, a lawyer, and a private college admissions officer, and is a comprehensive look at clever, creative ways to pay for college. Other parents of high schoolers have called this class "amazing" and "incredibly helpful." Fee is \$39 per person and just \$10 more for each additional family member.

### [\*\*How to Create Brilliant College & Scholarship Essays\*\*](#)

Learn how top applicants use a combination of well-reasoned logic and vividly written stories to create powerful college admission and scholarship application essays. Discover a clever organizational structure that makes room for all of your greatest



accomplishments without ever sounding scattered, disorganized, or disjointed. Other students have called this class "amazing" and "revolutionary." This class is also suitable for applicants to law, medical, business, and graduate school. Fee is \$39 per person and just \$10 more for each additional family member.

Presenter: Jeannie Burlowski, a nationally recognized speaker, consultant, and writer on the subjects of brilliance in college, debt-free college completion, strategic career planning for high school and college students, and admission to highly competitive law, medical, business, and graduate schools.

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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 two needs: a) emergency/immediate alerts, and b) attendance alerts.

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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

[Forward this email](#)



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