

DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the BOARD

DaVinci Charter School/ Garden City Community School, #459
May 16, 2011

CURRENT 2011-2012 ENROLLMENT: 121

ENROLLMENT figures for 2011-2012 as of May 9, 2011 TOTAL: 176

(NOTE: not all families have returned final commitment registration data, so some numbers may show "over cap allowance" which adjusts by end of school year. Classes are listed as individual grades for this month's report, but all numbers are balanced into our multi-age grouping. Class lists have already been sent to all families.)

Kindergarten: 27 (We are considering AM & PM classes if all families return commitment forms and attend Kindergarten Round Up screenings this week.)

The remaining lists are shown by grade levels, but have been placed into our multi-age grouped classes, so student numbers are balanced into class sizes according to our charter. **1st grade:** 29, **2nd grade:** 21, **3rd grade:** 27, **4th grade:** 18, **5th grade:** 18, **6th grade:** 12, **7th grade:** 15, **8th grade:** 6

RECENT EVENTS

- **April 19 – Boise Fire Department** met with K-2 students on fire safety
- **April 19 - Idaho Charter School Network Executive Board meeting**,—Cindy attended. As of the annual conference in June, Cindy will be off the board of directors.
- **April 25 – Legislative Tour** in Boise to update all schools regarding new educational laws passed this session. Each school was required a team to attend so they could participate in work sessions to start the development for implementing new requirements. Thanks to our school's team who attended with me: Laurel, Brenda, and Michele. The policy committee will continue this new information to create and/or revise some of our policies to incorporate these changes.
- **April 30 – Family Magazine's Camp & Education Fair** – we had a promotional booth at this well-attended event. Thanks to Laurel Odell, Jeanna Vickery, Elizabeth Sackman and Marti Hinckley for helping me with this.
- **May 4-5– Idaho Supt. Network Meetings** – Cindy attended this in Boise
- **May 6** – Brenda's class celebrated the end of their unit on China with a day of authentic Chinese food cooking, games, Chinese brush painting, paper art, and a slide show of her trip over spring break to China.
- **May 6 – School Tour** – I answered questions and toured the school with about 15 people. Due to time constraints, I decided to set up three tours advertised on our website and open to anyone at various days of the week. These have been well attended and families seem to enjoy visiting with each other and hearing each others questions when we start as a group to visit. I also feel it has been a successful way to improve my time management. Families wanting more private conversations are invited to call or set up meetings with me as follow ups.
- **May 12 – Kindergarten's Screening Round Up and New Family Orientation**

GOOD NEWS

- **Congrats to Brenda!** Brenda Miller has been selected to participate in IdaSTARTALK: Chinese Landscape: Pathways through Idaho August 7-13 as a teacher participant. This is sponsored by the SDE & Meridian School District. It is a program for those interested in learning more about the Chinese language and culture.
- **Congrats to Elijah Toye** – one of Brenda's 7th graders. We just received word that he was one of the winners in the Idaho for Humanities art contest depicting acceptance of all people! Two years ago one of our 2nd graders took grand champion!
- **Our Special Services department again received commendations** by the Idaho Department of Education. We thank Special Services Coordinator, Angela Banning and her staff for helping develop this program and for keeping up with all the deadlines and requirements of the state and federal government in this area of education.
- **Congrats to paraprofessional and SpEd/kindergarten aide and student teacher, Shana Freedman** for passing her Praxis test recently. This is part of her ABCTE alternative education certification. Pat Griffin finished his Praxis and ABCTE certification process a few months ago.

COMMUNITY CIRCLES *These take place every Wednesday morning at 9AM and everyone is invited to attend any of them!*

- **April 20 – Shakespeare Festival’s “Hansel & Gretel: A Grimm Tale”.** *Cost were covered by a former students great aunt*
- **April 27 – Ryan’s 5-6 class** wrote and presented a play/reader’s theater as part of their unit on Greek mythology. The programmatic audit team enjoyed attending the Circle and was impressed by both Ryan’s class as well as the audience’s attentive behavior.
- **May 4 – Elizabeth’s Kindergarten** – helped us celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Mexican Hat Dance – costumes and hand made maracas included. They also shared drawings and information about Leonardo DaVinci.
- **May 11 – Brenda’s 7-8 class** shared their Chinese unit with the school.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CURRICULUM

- **April 20 – Collaboration Series**, part 2, presented for all schools involved with the Idaho Capacity Builders project. Attended by our School Improvement Team- Angela, Brenda, Wren, Elizabeth and Cindy
- **April 22 – Professional Development** for all staff
 - Michele & Jeanna spent most the day finalizing our website for DaVinci
 - Teaching staff worked in the computer lab documenting student assessment data into a new template created by 5/6 grade teacher, Ryan, to fit our school’s unique philosophy versus the processes we had been trying to use that had been developed by the state. Everyone was impressed and thankful for all the hard work Ryan put into creating these very detailed data templates. These will be used to guide teachers’ instruction as well as become a tool to show parents and students visual data to help them understand the academic progress of each student individually.
 - All staff brainstormed ideas for new “slogans” for DaVinci
- **School Improvement Team** (Angela, Brenda, Wren, Elizabeth and I) have been meeting to use staff input/survey data, test results and school improvement training information to develop our future professional development plans. A Response to Intervention plan is being developed in written form to create a school manual for all staff to start using in the fall to create clarity and continuity for our academic and behavioral continuous improvement processes.

ARTS INTEGRATION*

Arts integration coordinator, Rebecca, and all staff have been working diligently to develop an incredibly unique show full of varied presentations weaving together to share what students have learned, while making a statement that we are all in this world together. It will be held Wed, May 25 (7PM): “EMERGENCE: a celebration of our lives, learning and unlimited potential!” This all-school performance to be held at the Friends Church on Goddard next to Capitol High School. We are inviting the families, media and everyone in our data base who has donated to the school over the years.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION

Most field trips this past month have been getting our children into the outdoors environment:

Gina & Marti’s 1-2: Discovery Center, park exploration, Boise watershed

Wren & Ben’s 3-4 – Deer Flat Refuge, wetlands, M-K Nature Center, Boise watershed

Ryan’s 5-6: Birds of Prey, Boise Art Museum

Brenda’s 5-6: Birds of Prey

Deer Flat Speaker “Animal Olympics” spent a day at the school meeting with various age groups

FINANCES

- **BUDGET:** We’re right on track. Preliminary projected budget to be presented to the board at May meeting in preparation for final public budget hearing and approval in June meeting.
- **CONTRACTS:** We have finalized contracts with the Boys & Girls Club for next year’s lunch catering and PE partnership. All costs and arrangements will stay the same as this year.

SCHOOL FACILITY

I have spent the last month in negotiations on our proposed site. I should be able to give you final financial details at the board meeting as we are close to finalizing the letter of intent. We are also developing contingency plans.

- COMMUNICATIONS
 - A Community Council meeting was facilitated by parent rep to the board, Michael Tetrault, on April 21. There was a good turnout which included a variety of stakeholders who asked good questions and expressed concerns and ideas. Director Cindy explained all details about the moving process that are currently available to the group and everyone seemed content that the move is a positive event and has contingency plans in place to ensure DaVinci will proceed as planned. The group asked how they can help with the process and ideas were discussed: help school with the move by packing or cleaning, pass the word to others about the school, talk to anyone they know in the neighborhood for the potential school location to express the positive aspects of being neighbors, attend any upcoming meetings with the city to support the school gaining the needed permits,
 - A report from the meeting was developed by Michael Tetrault which was placed on our website. Cindy developed a facts sheet which was attached to the May newsletter and sent to stakeholders on paper with their students, e-mail, paper copy to new families and a copy has been placed on our website.
- PLANNING & ZONING – *in order to see if the city will approve the space we're considering for the school's future facility the following has also been required:*
 - Along with Lew Manglos, the realtor helping us with our facility process, I met with the city for another pre-application (Conditional Use Permit) meeting to for discussion/questions from the P & Z rep, the city code chairman, and reps from the sewer, the fire dept.
 - The Planning & Zoning Committee will be given the required packet of information, permit applications and fees on May 17 – the final deadline available for the June P & Z requirements.
- NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

This will be held for the potential Glenwood site's neighborhood on Monday, May 16 from 5:30-8PM in the school Commons Area. This is a required aspect of applying for a Conditional Use Permit and is the last day possible to have the meeting in order to meet the June Planning & Zoning meeting's requirements
- UPDATE on FACILITY and contingency plans' progress will be given at the board meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Mon, May 16 (5:30-8:00PM) : Neighborhood Meeting** in the school's commons area
2. ***Wed, May 25 (7PM): "EMERGENCE: a celebration of our lives, learning and unlimited potential!"** All-school performance to be held at the Friends Church on Goddard next to Capitol High School. All board members will be introduced. We are inviting the families, media and everyone in our data base who has donated to the school over the years. Please invite anyone you would like to as this will be an incredibly unique showcase showing what the students have learned this year – in the form of dance, music, drama and visual arts.
3. **Tues, May 31 (2-3PM) Transition Day** for current and future students to spend a fun hour with their 2011-12 classmates and teacher. Parents will meet in their own session while they wait.
4. **Wed, June 1 – All School Pack & Clean Day** The rented storage PODS will be at the school so teachers, students and parents can start loading each class's POD.
5. **Thurs, June 2 – Last Day of School Celebration Day** – students will have in-class celebrations, swim at the West Y and end the year with a Community Circle for graduating 8th graders and some class and attendance acknowledgements.
6. **Fri, June 3** – Last contract day for teachers – professional development and moving time.
7. **Fri, June 10 & Sat June 11:** Idaho Charter School Network Conference. Saturday will focus on board training.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Hoovel, GCCS Director