

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER



DaVinci Charter School



March 1, 2011

*Hello to our wonderful families! Here's some important information about current and future happenings at our great school. Be sure to check my Directors Report to the Board for detailed information on other topics regarding the school.*

**STUDENT LED CONFERENCES (SLCs):** This week – Wed, March 2 & Thurs, 3 from 5-7PM! (Gina & Wren's will go from 4-8 on Thursday due to their state required math class on Wed. night)..

**NO SCHOOL,** Friday, March 4 for students. Staff will be in professional development.

**PARENT SURVEYS:** These will be given to each parent as they arrive for SLCs this week. To keep them confidential, I'll have a "slotted" box in the Commons' entryway for them to be returned. Surveys will be sent to the Center for Effective Education to be tabulated and graphed for our use towards school improvement and stakeholder satisfaction.

**2011-2012 LOTTERY & CURRENT STUDENT COMMITMENTS:** The applications for the lottery for future students & commitment forms to reserve your place for current students are due no later than Friday, March 11.

**POTENTIAL FUTURE SCHOOL SITE & \*NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING: Tuesday 3/1 5:30-8:00PM** at the school.

- I am working with the board and finance committee to explore all possible ways to attempt to purchase (or lease with option to buy) a new building for the school. Don't worry...we will not do ANYthing to jeopardize our financial security and are being very frugal and careful as we explore various options.
- Meanwhile – in order to be prepared if we ARE able to pull this project together, I had to set up a "Neighborhood Meeting" in time to meet with GC Planning & Zoning eventually. Everyone who lives or owns businesses within 300 yards of the prospective site is required to have the option to meet to address concerns or ask questions. Their attitude towards having a potential school near them determines if we are allowed to even pursue this project at all! You're welcome to attend with the realtors & me, if interested. I have no idea what kind of turnout there will be, but all owners were sent a notice (with a flyer about the school to advertise, too!). Feel free to ask me your questions.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FUTURE SCHOOL SITE** If you know of anyone who might be interested in supporting costs for a new location or down payments, please let a board member or myself know so we can contact them to discuss possibilities.

**OPEN HOUSE, Thursday, March 10** for potential new students in the 2011-12 school year. Pass the word or bring your friends down to learn more about the school!

**BUS BEHAVIOR:** Please help us continue to teach our students proper behavior when riding the bus to home or on field trips. We have a teacher ride the regular route on various days to support the bus driver, but students should already know and follow the basic rules: *Keep feet on the floor, seat on the seat, back to the back, hands and objects to themselves and no yelling or bad language.* Due to the importance of safety, I am having our driver really crack down on this. If there's a problem, he will now send a note home to parents to be signed and returned to him and he will report the incident to me. Students will not be allowed to ride the bus if they don't follow these safety rules. Your help is appreciated.

**EDUCATION REFORM BILLS:** I'll be very honest with you .....I'm staying very involved & updated on all legislation– and also very calm. I tend to forget parents might be concerned, too since I just assume you trust I'll take care of our school!!! However.....*be sure to ask me questions, concerns or needs for clarification on legislation being passed regarding education.* Most of the "reforms" we are *already* doing and not much will affect our school.

The tech and class size worries definitely won't hit us as long as we stay K-8. If each bill leaves decisions to the local school district (us!) versus telling us specifically how to handle each detail...there really aren't changes for us. I've had a bit of concern on some very "under-mentioned" changes in the funding formulas, but it looks like we're small enough (and we budget so frugally already) that they won't hit us very hard if passed. I'll keep families posted as we are getting close to setting our 2011-12 budget. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/studentsComeFirst/>.

### **SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS:**

- Even though I will never let anything happen to our teachers or school, teachers all over Idaho are feeling a lot of stress from the legislation passing on education. I'm sure it'd mean a lot for teachers to have you and your students show them your support in whatever way you can think of. A kind word or card goes a very long way to a teacher!
- Another fun idea would be to have your child enter the following contest:
  - **My Favorite Teacher Contest:** The deadline for Barnes & Noble's My Favorite Teacher Contest is fast approaching (March 18, 2011). Don't miss out on the chance for you and your students to win! All contest details and rules are available at [www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher](http://www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher) or in your local Barnes & Noble store.

**ADVANCED STUDENTS:** our school's philosophy includes working with students' interests, strengths and readiness levels – all within one classroom. Staff just completed intense training on "differentiation" to teach one main concept to all children in the class – while challenging every child through the use of creative methods including: centers, learning contracts, tiered instruction, RAFT assignments, etc. We believe in high expectations of all our students, so ask your child's teacher if you have questions about your child being challenged enough!

**FAMILY FUN ART NIGHT, Thursday, March 24 6:30-8:00PM.** Staff and Community Council are organizing a great evening to learn a bit more about Leonardo DaVinci through fun activities following some of his creative art methods and inventions. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to help or organize an art station!

### **SPRING BREAK: March 28 – April 1**

**The DaVINCI CHARTER SCHOOL "ALL-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE": Thursday, May 19, 7PM** to be held at the *Capitol High School Performing Arts Auditorium!!!* Mark your calendar for this exciting *Celebration of Learning* when all students will share what they've been learning this school year with their class through performances of dance, song, skits, and readers theater. The show will also include various aspects of the arts they've learned from arts coordinator, Rebecca, during Art Studio! This is going to be an extremely exciting evening for all! Start sending out the invites to family and friends as we'll have plenty of space for everyone to join us!

As always – I welcome your calls or visits to share ideas or concerns!

Sincerely,



Cindy Hoovel, Administrator  
Garden City Community School/DaVinci Charter School, #459  
(208) 377-0011  
[cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org](mailto:cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org)