



FAMILY NEWSLETTER: September 23, 2011

What a great start to the year for DaVinci! Our super new location is appreciated and we are so impressed with our families having such positive attitudes and volunteerism! Here are some important dates and information I knew you'd want to have regarding your child and the school.

SCHOOL PICTURES: THURSDAY, Sept 29 AM.....NOTE!!! Our photo company just changed this date due to a scheduling conflict they had! You should receive the picture packets TODAY! If you did not receive one, check with the office for another set.

NO SCHOOL Thursday, October 6 – Monday, October 10 due to state teacher in-services Thursday and Friday and Columbus Day observation on Monday.

FAMILY GOAL NIGHT: Thursday, October 13, 6-8 PM Each year we ask all our families and their students to join their class and teachers for some fun activities which help them set good academic and personal goals for the year. Please mark this date on your calendars! There will be two 50 minute sessions for you to choose from and to help if you have more than one child attending DaVinci: 6:00-6:50PM and 7:00-7:50PM. (NOTE: due to an unchangeable prior commitment, Marti's family goal session will be held 5:00-5:45PM.)

FAMILY-TEACHER CONFERENCES Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22 We have decided to have families spend individual time (via an appointment process) with their teachers during our first conferences this year. Students will still lead the conference by sharing the work samples from their portfolio and discussing their goals with their parents, but the teacher will also meet with you to help guide the process and answer your questions. In March we will have our traditional "Student-Led Conferences" where the student will be in charge of the entire conference. This decision resulted from feedback and requests received by parents from various age groups of students. We hope this will help you get the chance to really understand your child's academic and social progress – as well as DaVinci's unique methods!

COMMUNITY CIRCLES are now held in the Idaho Archery Company's large back room at 10AM most Wednesdays. Each class takes turns facilitating the 20 minute all-school get-together sharing good news, skits explaining what they've been learning, lessons about the 5R's etc. Watch your child's teacher's newsletters as you are always invited to join us – especially when your child is performing!

PE SHOES Please be sure you check your child's PE schedule so they will have closed toed shoes that day as there often is a lot of running involved. Wren & Ben's classes (3-4) have PE on Tuesdays, Brenda & Ryan's classes (5-8) have Tuesdays and Marti & Pat's (1-2) have Wednesdays.

DAVINCI'S DAILY SCHEDULE This is listed on the website.

TARDIES If you bring your children past the time the class has gone into their classroom after Great Morning Starts, we need you to stop by the office to check them in with our secretary, Jeanna, as "tardy". Anyone younger than fifth grade needs the adult to walk them to their classroom (safety) with a pass. Great Morning Starts exercise gets their brains going, so we hate to have them miss this!

DROP OFF Please be sure to drive slowly and COUNTER clockwise around the entire business park's "circle" between the day care and our school. We also need you to have your child ready to hop out when in the car line. Otherwise, it holds up the entire line of families. You're always welcome to park and walk them to the playground if this fits your preferences. It's all about safety and respect for other people's time who are waiting behind you! Thanks for helping us refine this system!

PICK UP *Your consideration and respect regarding the following will greatly be appreciated!*

- Please be sure whoever is picking up your child is at the school no later than 3:20PM to meet the children in the playground. Teachers are not allowed to leave the playground until all their students have been picked up so they miss meetings and valuable planning and collaboration time if they have to wait for you.
- Staff is required to watch confidentiality and are so involved making sure your children are getting picked up by the correct people that I ask them not to discuss issues about your child at this time. Please call the office to request they call you or set an appointment for longer visits. People waiting for their own children to be released get a tad grouchy waiting!
- No child is allowed to leave with anyone that the parent/legal guardian has not given written, signed and dated permission to the office for our files. I'm sure you appreciate and understand this safety measure!

VISITING & VOLUNTEERING

- Please make advanced arrangements with the classroom teacher to volunteer or visit your child's classroom. We love to have you join us and expect all families to volunteer a minimum of five hours each month – in any way that works for your schedule! Check in at the office first, please!
- There are a lot of great educational field trips taking place to the Boise Art Museum, library and greenbelt right now, so we hope you can find time to join the classes. These require several adults' help to meet our safety standards for leaving campus.
- We ask that you not bring younger siblings as it's often distracting to the children and is also a liability for the school. Your child (no matter what age!) loves to get your full attention and show you off to their class!

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING Check our website for information about free and low cost health screening services in the area! It's a good time of the year to get this done!

PLAYGROUND

- We've added a sand pile to our playground and the next part – donated asphalt – should be arriving soon!
- Once the asphalt is laid, there will be fun games painted on it with a half court basketball and soccer area included.
- Thanks to Jim Rupp for donating the soccer goals and to Clean Sweep (owned by Joe Zubizaretta -grandfather of the Ginn girls) for the soon-to-arrive asphalt and painted games.
- We still need :
 - Picnic table
 - Sturdy basketball pole/hoop/net – preferably portable with both a tall and short version
 - Some type of logs or border to hold in the sand for the play area
 - Help to install the fence once the asphalt is poured
- Please let Director Cindy know if you can help with any of these needs!

I am always interested to hear your ideas or concerns, so please feel free to contact me any time! Remember to check our website for updates. I look forward to seeing you the evening of October 13 for our Family Goals Night event!

Sincerely,

Cindy Hoovel, Director

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