



Dec-Jan
2018 - 2019



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DA VINCI HIGH SCHOOL

www.davincicharteracademy.net

Coming Up

- Tuesday, Jan 8, 2019 - Students return; Semester 1 grades final; Semester 2 begins**
- Wednesday, Jan 9 - Advisory Board Meeting #4 at DVHS, 5:30-6:30 pm in Presentation Room**
- Wednesday, Jan 16 - DVHS Leadership Movie Night Fundraiser, 6-8 pm in Presentation Room**
- Monday, Jan 21 - MLK Jr. Holiday, no school**
- Tuesday, Jan 22 - Sophomore Field Trip to California Museum**
- Wednesday, Jan 30 - Booster Meeting at DVHS, 6:30 pm in Room #18**
- Thursday, Jan 31 - Junior College & Career Planning Night, 7 pm in MPR**
- Friday, Feb 22 - Party Like It's 1929 Night!**
- Thursday, March 14 - WWI Museum Night & Open House; Spring Summit - modified schedule**
- Saturday, March 16 - Annual Booster Auction at Odd Fellow Hall**



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Winter Feast - Are You Not Entertained?!

Winter Feast was a blast! The DVCA Leadership Class did an excellent job creating a mixture of community building activities, and epic entertainment. Nice work #DVCALeadership and Mrs. Conners! Thank you also to the incredible support of our parent community. Our Booster Winter Feast Coordinator, Maureen Ladd, organized a fantastic group of parents to donate delicious food and help with all of the logistics of feeding 300 students and 40 staff members. Our Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Eric Olive, led an army of parents to serve, supervise, and clean-up the mess. We are lucky to have such a supportive community. The performance by Mariachi del Valle was outstanding; it was great to see them perform in front of our entire student body. Check out some photos of the action below!



Talent show performance of a Minesweeper- themed version of "Take on Me"



Staff performance of a Pitch Perfect-style singing competition



Mariachi del Valle performing "Terco Corazon"

Professional Development - Authenticity!

Despite the significant logistical challenges, our entire 7-12 Da Vinci Charter Academy Staff commits to doing charter-wide professional development each school year. This year, our staff met each Wednesday morning for five consecutive weeks to dive into the concept of "authenticity" in our curriculum. It was a productive endeavor, as we spent time thinking about how to make project context more authentic, how to authentically involve adult partners, and how to authentically connect to students passions and interests. This work culminated with over sixty community members coming to campus to provide feedback directly to teachers on their new or revised projects. Thank you to all the parents that joined us for this exciting event.

One of the most promising outcomes of this work is the development of a Community Connections Database for our staff to effectively integrate adults and professionals into all aspects of projects, not just as panelists. Our staff knows that linking student learning to the experiences and knowledge of the Davis community is a rich and untapped resource and we are dedicated to improving in this area as we continue to evolve and grow. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Community Connections Database please sign up by clicking [HERE](#) or by going to the "Community" section of our website and clicking on "Become a DVCA Contact." Once you sign up, our teachers will reach out to discuss ways to support their work.

3) Adult Connections



At right, students and parents receive an orientation from Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Millsap before participating in Critical Friends sessions with teachers. At left, one charts showing avenues for growing adult connections.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Our counseling team is here to support your student with the start of the new semester or with future planning needs. In fact, Program Planning is only two months away! You or your student can easily schedule counseling appointments using our online scheduler at: <https://www.myscuta.com/appointment>. Check out the notices below for upcoming counseling related events.

- Post-Secondary Night for Juniors is on Thursday, January 31st from 6:30-8pm in the MPR at DVHS. ; Families and students are welcome. It is critical that you attend this event to learn about all of the options that exist after graduation as well as our plan to support you along the way. We look forward to seeing you there! ;
- Think about challenging yourself with a Sac City college class next semester! Classes start on January 19th. See your counselor for an application today! International Relations will be offered at Da Vinci and there are hundreds of options for online classes and classes at Sac City Davis Center. ;
- Seniors: For those of you applying to college, including community college, check out the reminders below. You need to complete this list before the end of the month. ;
 - *File your FAFSA before March 2, though some colleges have specific deadlines MUCH earlier. ;
 - *Check that all of your colleges have received official SAT/ACT score reports. ;
 - *Respond to colleges' request for additional information. ;
 - *Send CSS Profile (for private colleges) by the required deadline(s). ;
 - *Continue watching for scholarship listings in Naviance; periodically check out scholarship bulletin in the Career Center. ;
 - *Ensure that you create and check portals for EVERY school to which you apply. The portals are how the schools will communicate with you about critical information! ;
 - *For those of you who've applied to private colleges using the Common App, Mrs.Roper and Ms. Strand will submit your mid-year transcripts the week of January 22nd. ;



Nicole Chiamparino-Roper, Counselor



Erika Strand, Counselor

An Evening Celebrating Women in STEM

For the second year, Da Vinci Charter Academy is hosting an event celebrating women in STEM fields here at our campus on the evening of January, 29 at 6:15 pm in the MPR. This event is sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Explorit Science Center. The event is aimed at upper-elementary and middle school students but some high school students may find relevance as well. Please check out the flyer attached to this email and consider encouraging your student and parent community to attend. There is a program for students to interact directly with highly successful women in STEM fields and a parent program to learn about AAUW's Tech Trek Summer Program, opportunities at Explorit Science Center, and the Da Vinci Program. A flyer with registration details and the list of STEM speakers will follow in mid-January. Questions can be directed to Leslie Rubin at leslifayrubin@gmail.com.



Advisory Board Update & Member Spotlight

The Da Vinci Advisory Board met for the third time in November. We currently have committees working on plans to promote DVCA in three important areas: our presence in the Davis community, exploring facility improvements, and supporting our students' mental health. At our next Advisory Board meeting, we'll certify the DVCA Charter to be sent to DJUSD BoE and to the California Department of Education.

This edition's Advisory Board Member Spotlight goes to parent member Amy Haug, mother of 7th and 10th grade students at DVCA. Amy appreciates the creative approach to learning at DV, the enthusiastic students and staff, and inclusive atmosphere. She enjoys being part of student projects and finds them creative and thought-provoking. Amy enjoys playing the ukelele, using her 3D printers, and teaching science. She is happy that her family is part of the DV community. Amy, we are happy and fortunate that you are part of the community! Thanks for your work.



First year Advisory Board Member and 4th year DV Parent, Amy Haug

Annual Booster Auction - Sat March 16th!!!

The DVCA Booster's Annual Fundraiser is March 16, 2019. The Boosters Auction Committee is now actively soliciting and accepting donations for this event. Last year's fundraiser collected more than \$22,000 that was used to fund student clubs like robotics and journalism, classroom field trips, and replace laptops. The Boosters were also able to fund video camera equipment, world geography maps, GeoModel shapes, and graphing calculators from the Fund-An-Item proceeds. But they need your support to meet their goal of \$25,000 this year!! The Booster Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so your donations are tax-deductible. For more information about donating, please contact Monica Skinner (monicammskinner@gmail.com) or Heidi Johnson (bigskyheidi@gmail.com).

An Update from Nurse Amy on Vaping

Vaping has been on the rise in junior high and high school students. "Vaping" is a term that refers to the use of any electronic vaporizer, such as e-cigs, vapes, vape pens, Juuls, and e-hookahs. The devices are often mistaken for a flash drive and can plug into a computer USB port. The term vaping can incorrectly lead people to believe that these devices produce harmless water vapor, but in reality, they produce potentially harmful aerosols that are inhaled into the lungs and exhaled into the environment. The added flavorings (e-juice) are made of glycerol and propylene glycol which, generally regarded as safe for ingestion, when heated can break down into toxic compounds such as formaldehyde. Although some devices contain only e-juice flavoring, such as cherry or buttered popcorn, the liquid is often a medium for inhaled nicotine and/or cannabis. One Juul cartridge (about the size of a dime) contains the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes or about 60 mg of nicotine per ml of liquid.



Other brands of e-cigs can contain up to 720 mg of nicotine, an amount that is twelve times higher than the oral lethal dose for children (P.J. Lein, UC Davis). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides information on vaping, including Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents. If your student has a health concern, please contact Nurse Amy at 530-746-0905. Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:30-2:30.

Breakfast Program - A Success!

Last year, the Board of Education supported the idea of providing a breakfast program (in addition to a lunch program) for DVHS students. After experimenting with different menu items and time slots, we settled on providing breakfast burritos, breakfast sandwiches, muffins, and cereal during a morning snack break. I'm pleased to report that this has been incredibly successful with approximately 25-30 students accessing meals at school. We appreciate the district support on this issue and we want to sustain its success. To that end, I'd like to encourage you to remind your student to access meals at school and remind you that you can add money to your student's account by going to "Pay My Child's Meal Balance" in the "Family Quick Links" section of the DVHS website. You can also apply for free/reduced lunch by completing and submitting a paper form for the National School Lunch Program in the DVHS school office.

Attendance Update - 3.5% below expectations

As a dependent charter school, DVCA has the opportunity to design our program and make commitments about the type of community we want to be. A key element of our school culture and academic success is our commitment to positive attendance for every student. Our charter stipulates the importance of attendance in the following way: "In addition to adhering to CA Ed. Code, DJUSD Board of Education Policies, and DJUSD Administrative Regulations for attendance, DVCA places a high value on positive attendance due to the interdependence created in the learning environment - the collaborative process cannot be effectively modeled, taught, and supported without a consistent connection to the classroom setting. DVCA's stated goal of an annual attendance rate of 96% or better illustrates this community expectation for students and families." **As of December, our attendance rate sits at 92.5% for grades 10-12, which is not good enough.** With this in mind, we encourage you to support your student's attendance by only excusing absences per admissable by Ed Code and communicating promptly with our office. In some cases, Independent Study may be appropriate and you can inquire with Debbie Martin in our office.

Project Spotlight - Semester One Closes Strong

Revolutionaries on Trial

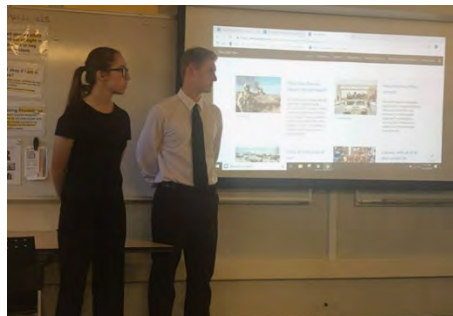
Sophomore teams either defend or prosecute a historical figure from a revolutionary period in a mock trial, complete with a panel of parent and alumni jurors.



From left to right: Grace Allen cross examines Olivia McCutcheon in the role of Napoleon

America at War

In collaborative teams, Juniors study a military conflict from America's past and address four driving questions about the impacts of war. Using evidence from research, veteran interviews, and literature, they presented their finding to panels of community members and veterans. ;



From Left to Right: Cameron McGinnis & Jakob Smith (team members Sebastian Tamayo and Carter Luck not shown) ;

Dragons' Den

Seniors teams design and pitch a business that would benefit the Davis Community. They deliver their pitch, ; with financials, prototypes, and marketing to members of the local business community in an attempt to get funded. ;



From left to right: Walker Holmes, Sarah Oide, Alissa Cassilas, Blayne Clegg-Swann, & Jeremy Nunes get funded! ;

From Principal Millsap

Welcome back from Winter Break, which I hope provided rest and enjoyment for your student and your family. Personally, I enjoyed the uninterrupted time with my family, especially with my 15 month-old, daughter Maya (pictured at right), even though her 6 am wake-up time prevented any sleeping in. In contrast to the weariness that permeates those last few days before break, the start of the second semester brings a freshness and energy that is essential to tackling the many things that lie ahead and I'm optimistic about the future of the Da Vinci Program.

The passage of Measure M brings a much-needed opportunity to support many of the district's aging schools. At this time, the DVHS/Valley Oak Campus, which was built in 1953 as an elementary school, is scheduled to receive approximately \$1.9 million for technology, safety, & security upgrades. This is the same base allocation for all of DJUSD's campuses. DVCA appreciates the support that the Davis community provides to its education system and looks forward to seeing how our current site might benefit from Measure M.

Another exciting, recent development, is the formation of the Da Vinci Alumni Network (DVAN). DVAN has elected five board members, with Class of 2010 alumna Nicola Williams serving as its first president. We anticipate a full, public launch of the alumni network in late February. DVAN will provide networking for grads, mentoring for current students, and advocacy and support for the DV program. Questions can be directed to Ms. Williams at nicola.williams@djusdk12ca.org.

Happy New Year and best wishes for an outstanding second semester!

Tyler Millsap, Principal, DVCA



Above: Principal Tyler Millsap
Below: Maya Millsap, ; future Dino! ;

