

# **FAMILY NEWSLETTER**

**GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL/DaVINCI CHARTER SCHOOL**

**January 2011 –February 2011**

**Hi GCCS/DaVinci Charter School Families!**

*There are so many exciting things that have been happening with students learning this winter! I decided it was time to let you know some of the good news – and things coming up so you can be sure to join in!*



## **FAMILY FUN MATH NIGHT** this Thursday, January 20, 6:30-8:00PM!

This is our second annual fun night sponsored by Community Council, our teachers and Micron! Parents and their students are invited to a fun evening of math games, food and fun! We ask that families stay together and start by playing the games in their own child's classroom. Afterwards - if you have time- you are welcome to have your family roam to other classrooms to try games in younger or older classes. There will be teachers and volunteers in each room to help you get started!

**NEW NAME!** It's official now.....we will be transitioning our school's name to **DaVinci Charter School**. This resulted from many years and stakeholders' input who felt this name represented our school's integration of the arts, creative problem solving, and focus on the environment and learning through inquiry – all known aspects of Leonardo DaVinci. We will be using **DaVinci Charter School** to promote the school for the spring recruitment but will not legally change it until our fiscal year ends June 30 (to keep our funding from getting confused!) Please watch how our new name is spelled/capitalized as you share it with others! An advertising campaign to make this transition, web changes & logo are also in the works. *Everyone's marketing and logo ideas are welcome!*



**PJ DAY, Friday January 21:** Yes – it's true! Marti's 1-2 class requested this during a special meeting with me and was too cute to say no to the fun! This will be announced during this week's Community Circle. Please remind your children we still follow dress code so the 3 B's need to be covered and there are to be no hoods/hats on heads.

**BOARD MEETING: Monday, Jan. 24 at 7PM.** I encourage families to join us as this meeting will include my "State of the School" presentation that I used during last week's required update to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. Parents and other stakeholders are always very welcome to these meetings. We are a very "transparent" school where everyone is invited to participate in discussions – with the school board members legally required to make the final decisions.



**CHARTER SCHOOL DAY at the CAPITOL: Wed, Feb 2 for grades 3-8.** We'll have two buses taking us, so any parents who want to join us are invited to ride along this time and help us with student groups! Please have them "RSVP" to your teacher as I need to make reservations for the number of people coming from our school as the Coalition of Charter Families will be covering food and supplies for everyone...but need numbers! We will leave at 9AM and the day will be full while students promote choice schools, meet other charter students, create cards/letters/posters for their legislators, learn about their capitol and legislators and enjoy both breakfast and lunch!

**TV???** We currently have no TV monitors to use for educational media in classrooms or for staff classes. If you know of any someone is willing to donate, they'd be appreciated! We don't use them much, but really miss not having any!



**ARTIST's RECEPTION: Wed, Feb 16 (6-7PM)** Brenda's 7-8 grade class has displayed their latest learning exhibit on "Immigration" at the GC Library and the school/public reception will be this evening. Please add this to your calendars as they do some incredible things to share what they've learned. All ages have fun!!

**FINAL ALL-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: tentative date -Thursday, May 19????** Check your calendar and any community calendar of events you might have so this possible date can be discussed and not overlap other events. Please let Cindy know if you've heard of any huge conflicts of interest!

**"Add Up the Fun" Math Program** – throughout the next month, Ryan and Brenda's 5-8 grade students will be participating in the "Add Up the Fun" math program sponsored by the Idaho Stampede basketball program and Micron. What a great way to create more interest in math and help our students learn!

**NO SCHOOL Friday, 2/18/11:**

- **End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester**
- **No School for Students/Professional Development Day for staff**
- **Charter Principals Lunch with Legislators Day**

**The TREY McINTYRE PROJECT\*** visited our students just before Winter Break. They not only performed their contemporary dances for us, but also taught and included our students in some dancing performances. Public Broadcasting System TV was filming them that day and we ended up being part of a documentary shown on national TV Dec. 15!

**UPDATE to the Idaho Public Charter Commission**, This was a "state of the school" Update all charter schools authorized under the Charter Commission are required to prepare and present to them. President Laurel and Business Manager Michele joined me. As required, a notebook of extensive, detailed data and materials was delivered to the Charter Commission in December and the PowerPoint delivered in hard copy packets. This same presentation will be given during the 1/24/11 board meeting. We received a letter of defect since our original charter said all students would have 95-100% on their high-stakes state tests (IRI & ISAT). The Commission acknowledged this was unrealistic, so our Corrective Action Plan just needs to have our score goals adjusted in a one page letter to them. We were highly commended for how our school is doing – in addition to our methods of helping students learn. I have been asked to give the same presentation to the Idaho Board of Education....which is very exciting for our school and education in general!

**COMMUNITY CIRCLES** *These take place every Wednesday morning at 9AM and everyone is invited to attend any of them! It's incredible how quickly students are mastering public speaking and performance skills! Recent class presentations include:*

- **12/8/10: Brenda's Lego Robotics Team presentation** – these 5-8 grade students competed in this competition that required students to create a robot to complete certain requirements – in addition to developing a solution to a current challenge in the world. They took 8<sup>th</sup> out of 32 teams competing throughout the valley this year. Thanks to Brenda, Wren Nicks, Rorque Toye and Melissa Rupe for helping the team many nights after school! Their inventions were amazing and the entire school was impressed with the inventions!
- **12/15/10: Wren's 3-4 class** presented a contemporary dance to music. The students wrote, choreographed and danced "The Life of a Salmon" using the information they'd learned from the \*Trey McIntyre Project visit. It was absolutely incredible!!!
- **1/5/11: Ryan's 5/6 class** gave a very mature, interesting presentation from their Ancient Egypt studies – including a life story written about a fictional Egyptian Queen. Students of all ages were intrigued!
- **1/12/11: Ben's 3-4 class** presented a game show they created from their studies of Idaho Rivers and salmon titled "The Salmonly Feud". It was hilarious and very informative.

**NOTE:** *Future Community Circles will focus on DaVinci's life to help students relate to our new name.*

**I look forward to seeing you soon. Please remember I always want to hear your ideas, comments or concerns!**

Sincerely, *Cindy* GCCS/DaVinci Charter School Administrator, 377-0011, cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org