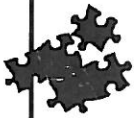


PRINCIPAL'S PALETTE

**Academie Da Vinci
Charter School
Parent Newsletter
March 11, 2009**

Susan Ray, Principal raymalawi@yahoo.com



No Secret to ADV Success

Academie Da Vinci may be the best kept secret among Pinellas County Schools, but there's no secret to our success.

Although there is always room for improvement, we realize our history of student achievement is the result of a combination of research-based educational practices: small school size, small class size, highly-qualified teachers, integration of the arts as both cultural and brain pathway enhancements, extensive family involvement, and a loving, nurturing environment.

Small school and class sizes allow more teacher-student interactions, more attention to each student's progress, and a sense of family among staff and children.

Each of our teachers is highly-qualified: all have college degrees in their particular area and/or have been deemed experts in their field. These qualifications ensure proper teaching techniques are being utilized while instructional information is constantly updated through professional development.

Participation in the arts has been shown in multiple research studies to enhance self-esteem, help develop an appreciation of artistic skills, and expand the number of neural (brain) pathways. The more path-ways that are built early in a student's life, the easier it is for information to get in because there are many different sorts of "roads". Also, these roads make links to other information so that connections (those "aha" moments for learners) are enhanced. **(continued on page 2).**

National Nutrition Month Tip:

Some children prefer to snack or eat very small amounts throughout the day. This is fine as long as they get sufficient nutrients. Best snacks are fruit, vegetables, and higher fiber foods. Avoid salt-laden snacks as well as sugary snacks.



Scholastic Book Fair Starts March 23rd

Academie Da Vinci will host a 4-day Scholastic Book Fair in the Multi-purpose Room from Monday, March 23 through Thursday, March 26. Students can browse Monday, and make purchases Tuesday through Thursday.

Scholastic Books, Inc. offers quality books that are developmentally structured. Furthermore, each sale generates a donation to our school account.



PTA NOTES

The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. This is a VERY important meeting. We need volunteers to step up and run for the 2009-2010 PTA Officer positions: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Questions? Contact current PTA president Kyra Jorgensen at krya@knowlogy.net.

FCATs Ongoing

Wed., March 11:

- 3rd - Reading (Part II)
- 4th - Reading (Part II)
- 5th - Math (Part II)

Thur., March 12:

- 3rd - Math (Parts I & II)
- 4th - Math (Parts I & II)
- 5th - Reading (Parts I & II)

Fri., March 13:

Make-ups: 3rd, 4th, & 5th

Mon., March 16:

5th - Science (Part I)

Tue., March 17:

5th - Science (Part II)

Wed. & Thur., March 18 & 19:

Make-up days



Remember: Timely arrival is very important. Breakfast is provided for those who miss theirs by our PTA. Also, the **campus remains closed** to visitors and volunteers during all testing times.

In The Classrooms

Mrs. Swain's 2nd grade class has put out a request for LEGOS. If anyone has a set to donate, please bring them to the school office.

Meanwhile, that class is writing about the *Flat Stanleys* (a book character) that are arriving daily from various locations around the U.S.

Our 1st graders are working hard at independent reading. Families can help by encouraging their child to read out loud and joining them in daily reading time.

The Kindergarten class has advanced to reading groups, is exploring probability in math, and showing they know their sight words in spelling tests.

Each of those groups needs extra work at home on counting & using money and telling time from an analog (not digital) clock.



No Secret (continued from Page 1)

Another key to school success is family involvement in the school. This act is a three-fold winner: it models the value of education, it keeps parents updated on what is happening in the classroom and their child, and families can better help with homework.



The love and nurturing in this school is practically palatable. Children thrive in environments where they are appreciated, feel safe, and loved. They are more likely to take risks and try new techniques. Students know every staff member cares and is here to help each child find success.

However, this combination of factors is never enough to ensure continued success. Benjamin Disraeli reminded us: "the secret to success is constancy to purpose". Even now, our teachers are exploring the Sunshine Standards, our curriculum, and assessment methods with a plan to build a larger repertoire of hands-on and real-world experiences for the students.

For more information try the website: www.newvisions.org/schools/downloads/10principleslong.pdf.

This Week's Highlights

Thursday, March 12

Pizza Order Day – money due today!



Friday, March 13

Last day for NEW applications to ADV

Monday, March 16:

Application names sent to CPA for lottery

Tuesday, March 17:

St. Patrick's Day



Wednesday, March 18

1st grade to DFAC – Clay Class

Upcoming Events

- **FCAT Testing**

March 10-19

- **New Applications Period Ends**

Friday, March 13th

- **Board of Directors' Meeting**

Thursday, March 19 Noon @ DFAC

- **Cookie Dough Orders Delivered**

Friday, March 20

- **5th Grade Read-a-thon**

Friday, March 20

- **Scholastic Book Fair**

March 23 – March 26 – Multi-Purpose Room

- **Steve the Drum Guy (all classes)**

Wednesday, March 25



A few of the many...Thank You!

PTA for the great breakfast foods during FCAT testing test.

Quote of the Week

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.