



Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School

Integrated Thematic Instruction Through Arts & Sciences

September 6, 2011

Volume 18, Number 1

Dates to Remember

Sept 6

First Day of School

Sept 7

SSC mtg/LIB 5:30 pm
PTC mtg/LIB 6:30 pm

Sept 14

Back to School Class Meetings
5-6 pm Salad Bar
5:30 pm Band & Orchestra
Parent mtg room 1
6-6:30 pm Announcements
6:30 pm Classrooms

Sept 16

Family Night at Funderland
5-8 pm

From the PTC President

Summer's come to an end and it's Back to School. Welcome back students, staff, and LdV parents! I hope the students have enjoyed their time spent out of the classroom, and they are now ready to return to a new school year. With their return we as parents will be asked to give our time and attention to the exciting Integrated Thematic Instruction curriculum in our children's classrooms as well as our own commitment to LdV's parent participation that is the corner stone of our school. There is so much we can do as a school community to enrich our students learning. Support the school in a way that fits you—say "yes" to being a volunteer in the classroom, find other parents who have your same interests on campus by volunteering—each week the newsletter tells of numerous opportunities to contribute your talent. Support our school by becoming a member of the Parent Teacher Council and attend the PTC meetings to hear what's happening at school! And last but not least participate in LdV's PTC fundraising to the best of your families abilities. Here we go! Pen, paper and my own LdV notebook in hand I'll see you all in the halls. —Sybil Lawson, PTC President

Welcome Principal Rob Jones!

Who is Rob Jones?

I have 32+ years of experience in S.C.U.S.D. as a teacher, coach, and primarily a Vice Principal and Principal of both middle school and high school. When I entered into the administrative ranks over 20 years ago I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work as an Elementary Principal (summer school) and found it to be fun and quite interesting. Mrs. Davis and I worked together at Rosemont H.S. for several years just prior to my retiring.

Since I believe Mrs. Davis is a top quality administrator, I agreed to sub for her while she is away being a mom. She and I will continue to communicate while she is away and her guiding touch will remain the direct influence it has been over the last few years. I am committed to doing what is right for all LdV students.

Personally, I have been happily married for 34 years and have a daughter and a son. My wife is retired while my daughter is an attorney here in town and my son is currently a teacher in S.C.U.S.D. and finishing up his coursework and credential in school administration.

I am happy to be here and looking forward to meeting you and continuing to help LdV strive for excellence.

—Principal Jones

Baby News

Principal Davis and her family welcomed 8 lb 3 oz Aubrey Geraldine on July 11, 2011. Mrs. Davis will be on campus as a new Kindergarten parent until November 1st when she will return to her Principal position. Congratulations!

Clip & Save Box Tops for Education!

Submit them in a zip-top plastic bag or envelope with your student's classroom number on it. The classroom that collects the most coupons in September will celebrate with a sno-cone party! Help the LdV PTC raise much needed funds for school-wide programs and events! Best of all, it is FREE!

Please Attend

Everyone is encouraged to attend the first general meeting of the LdV PTC (Parent Teacher Council) this **Wednesday (9/7)** at 6:30 pm. You do not need to be a member to attend but everyone is encouraged to join the PTC. In addition to participating in decision making through attendance at PTC meetings, membership entitles you to vote in annual elections and by law revisions.

LdV's Annual Night at Funderland

Friday, Sept 16 from 5 to 8 pm

It's time once again to gather with LdV friends and families—present and past—for an evening of late summer fun at Sacramento's favorite amusement park: Funderland!

The LdV sixth grade has reserved the park exclusively for this event and is selling unlimited ride wrist bands for only \$10 (that's \$3.50 off the regular price)! Delicious food will be available for purchase so plan on buying dinner there. Admission is free but if you want to enjoy the rides you will need a wristband! Look for ticket sales before and after school (tickets are redeemable for wristbands the night of the event). Wristbands will be on sale at the event, but numbers are limited and it's best to reserve your spot by prepurchasing tickets. Make **Friday, Sept 16** a family night and let the 6th grade provide food and fun, and don't forget to invite your friends.

Scholastic Book Fair

The LdV Library needs volunteers to help run the fall Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair runs Oct 10 thru Oct 14th, 9am to 3:30pm and during class meeting night, Oct 12th, 5 to 8pm. Set up for the Book Fair is Friday, October 7th, 9am to noon. Take down of the Book Fair is Oct 14th, 3 to 6pm. Please contact Kate Ramos at 549-5734/mkeramos@pacbell.net.

Goodies!

Did you stop to chat and have some goodies in front of school this morning? Thanks to PTC parents for contributing goodies and to Joan & Espresso Metro for coffee. It was a wonderful way to begin our school year.

Your school-related event could be featured here!

This newsletter is distributed every Monday of the school year. The submission deadline is 8:45 am on the last, non-holiday Thursday preceding distribution. Please email your articles to: dsandsons@sbcglobal.net.

Events and services advertised in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by LdV PTC or SCUSD.

Published by the parents of Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School.

Next Issue: Sept 12

Deadline: Sept 8

Welcome new families and staff to LdV. We are happy to have you here!

Character Education

Parents, ask your children about LdV's character education program. The first week's focus is STAR—can they tell you what it stands for? (Stop, Think, Act and Review). This week they will hear about being trustworthy and truthful to others at all times. Being active listeners; using their ears, eyes and heart. Showing respect to others by giving up put downs. And showing respect to yourself by always doing your personal best. Today, LdV students began learning about the first pillar of character: RESPECT for others.

It's Library Card Sign-up Month

To receive a Sacramento Public Library card, bring your photo ID and proof of current address to a library. If you are under age 18, a parent or guardian will need to show ID and proof of address to obtain the card.

Be the Match

Be the one to save a life and visit the Bone Marrow Donor Drive that will be set up in front of the school on Back To School Night. LdV student Emil Ramos has organized a donor drive for BeTheMatch.org, the largest and most diverse registry in the world. Only 4 out of 10 adults and children receive the transplant they need. Sign up to be a donor and help give families hope. Contact Kate Ramos at 549-5734/mkeramos@pacbell.net with questions or for a chance to donate early!

Highlight Your Culture

Volunteers are needed to create interesting cultural displays for the CIE display case located in the main hall by the office. The case can be adopted by an individual, family, or group of friends to highlight a cultural of their choice. Choose a culture to highlight or a topic that celebrates our cultural diversity, then decide on the month and contact Kate Ramos at 519-5734 or mkeramos@pacbell.net.

Fingerprinting Requirements

Yes, you do need to be fingerprinted to go on a field trip...whether you are driving children or not...whether you are going by bus or not. The District requires any adult who is not fingerprinted to be in sight of a certificated person at all times, but it is vital that teachers be free to watch their students, not the grown ups who are there to help. So fingerprint please!

Please Remember

When approaching an leaving our campus... We ALL have children to drop off or pick up. We ALL have places we need to go. But the most importantly ALL of us need to be safe and courteous. Good behavior under pressure is a great lesson for the children in your car to witness.

And please do not block driveways, walk on lawns or run the stop signs in our neighborhood!

From the SCL (School Community Liaison)

Badges: Every parent on campus must sign in to the main office. If you are working anywhere on campus please sign in the book under Mona Lisa and get a "Volunteer" badge. If you are visiting a classroom, please sign in the visitor log and wear a "Visitor" badge. Please sign out in the appropriate book before leaving. These precautions are for the safety of everyone on campus.

Tally Sheets: A September tally sheet is in your first day packet. Please turn it into your child's class or to the Volunteer Office at the end of the month.

Carry Over Hours: Hours from 2010-2011 are only carried over to this year if they were worked AFTER May 15, 2011 (and turned in). Thank you to every parent who worked over their required hours last year (most of you). Our program shines because of you!

First Day Packets: Please complete your first day packet and return them to the classroom as soon as possible. Extra forms can be found in the front office.

TB test results and Sex Offender Background check clearances: Must be on file before working in the classroom. Fingerprinting must be cleared before driving on or chaperoning fieldtrips.

Feel free to stop by the garage door Mon-Fri 8:30 am-3:30 pm or email me at diane-soule@sac-city.k12.ca.us, or leave a message at 277-7034.

About the Newsletter

This newsletter is provided by the LdV PTC in conjunction with the LdV School Community Liaison. Please read it weekly in order to keep up with what is happening in our community. This is where you can get ideas about where and how to participate. This is also where you can announce any school related activities by submitting a short article about the event. Please be sure to include the date, time, and a contact name and number.

LdV on the Web

The weekly newsletter (without additional flyers) can be found on the LdV web site: scusd.edu/leonardodavinci.

You may also download Tally Sheets in either Word or Excel. The files can be completed and emailed to diane-soule@sac-city.k12.ca.us. When you email a tally you will receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply it means your email was not received.

Thank You!

We are very grateful to the parents who have helped get LdV into tip top shape in the days before school opened. From stuffing 750 packets to pulling weeds, planting and watering, we appreciate your help.

How Much Will Your Trip to Disneyland Cost LdV?

Unexcused absences (any school day missed for reasons other than illness, doctor's appointment, death in family or religious reasons) costs LdV almost \$45. That means a 5 day trip costs \$225 and if you decide to take both your kids...

Llamada para avisar de enfermedad o retraso

Favor de llamar a 557-3089 (y seleccione 49 #) al empezar el mensaje) para avisar que su hijo/a va a estar ausente o va a llegar tarde. Deje su nombre, el nombre de su hijo/a, el número del salón, el día de ausencia o retraso, y la razón ("está enfermo/a", "tiene una cita con el doctor", "tiene un funeral familiar", etcetera es suficiente). Le pedimos que llame antes de las 11:00 de la mañana para evitar una ausencia sin excusa.

Free TB Testing

Tests taken this year will be "good" until 2015. Testing is done by the District at the Serna Center every other week from 3:30 to 5 pm. It's a two step process: given on Tuesday and read on Thursday. Testing is also done at the enrollment center on M.T.W beginning at 10 am. Schedules are in your first day packet.

Examen de tuberculosis (TB) gratis en la Serna Center

Los exámenes hechos este año están válidos hasta el 2014. El distrito ofrece los exámenes cada otro martes entre las 3:30 y las 5:00 de tarde en el Serna Center (5735 47th Ave - al este de la autopista 99). Hay dos partes del examen - dan las inyecciones los martes y leen los resultados los jueves. Las fechas particulares de los exámenes están disponibles en nuestra oficina.

Notice of Pesticide/Herbicide Use

LdV is scheduled for service by SCUSD's Small Grass Crew every Wednesday. The crew may or may not spray every Wednesday. If they do spray, they will post notice in the front lower window of the front door. A copy of SCUSD's Pest Management Program listing all chemicals applied to all sites is available in the front office.

Community Events

Leonardo da Vinci School will be holding a rummage sale alongside of the Hollywood Park Annual Garage Sale on October 1st. New and used items are welcome! LdV crafters are welcome to set up booths and families are welcome to bring along used items to sell. Booths can be for fundraising purposes or for private profit. Individual grades are encouraged to organize booths. Coffee will be provided by LdV Middle School Caf. Spaces will be 1st come 1st served the morning of the rummage sale. Goodwill will have a donation truck on site. Contact Kate Ramos at 549-5734/mkeramos@pacbell.net to sign up or for more information.

Library Programs Can Help Kids & Teens

Children checking back into school after the summer break also should "check in" at their nearest Sacramento Public Library location. The library offers many programs and services to help students in their studies. Plus, parents may access study and reading guides to aid their children's homework assignments. Many of these services are available through the Sacramento Public Library website.

Homework Help Now: Homework help for children and teen students is only a mouse click away! The library's redesigned Homework Help Now website instantly connects 3rd- to 12th-grade students with expert tutors who can help tackle any homework problem and assist in learning an academic skill or writing a term-paper. Students can access this online service daily, between 1 and 11 p.m. Homework Help Now provides:

- Conventional Homework Help: Students can submit a question in the online classroom and receive live, one-to-one assistance from a Brainfuse tutor.

- Skills-Building: This service helps master a concept or skill through state-aligned lessons, presented by Brainfuse tutors in one-to-one online sessions.

- 24-Hour Writing Lab: Writing instructors help participants become better writers by providing constructive feedback, and other assistance, within 24 hours of receiving a student's submission. Adults can even use this service for resume help.

- Full Spanish-Speaking Service: Spanish-speaking tutors offer the same online assistance on all Homework Help subjects with the same hours of availability.

When visiting the Kids and Teens sections on the library web site, there are other useful learning tools online:

- CultureGrams: Find a country's history, customs, government, and culture, as well as information, maps and photos for U.S. states.

- Biography in Context: Biographies of individuals from around the world, both historical and contemporary.

- Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Today's hottest social issues: Offshore Drilling to Climate Change, Health Care to Immigration, and more! Get the full picture from a variety of viewpoints.

- Student Resources in Context: News, articles, images, and primary sources to support students in grades 6 - 12.

- Kids InfoBits (K-5): Kid-friendly articles and information to support students in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

- Reference eBooks: Information about animals, science, Native American tribes, American decades, the Constitution, and more.

- College preparation: College-bound students can improve their chances for being accepted by higher-learning institutions by attending free library workshops scheduled throughout the year. The free classes include SAT/ACT practice examinations with follow-up test reviews by professional academic counselors, learning to write a college admission essay, and tips on obtaining scholarships and student financial aid.

Call In Sick and Tardy

Please phone in your students' absences and tardies by calling 557-0389 wait for the message to begin and then press 49#. Leave the child's name, room number, date of absence and reason for being out of school (i.e.: illness, doctor appointment, religious, out of town, death in family). You may also send your notification by email to Sally-Ulig@scusd.edu.

Please call or email by 11 am. Unverified absences will result in truancies. Absence verification must be made daily.

Late to School?

Students who are over 30 minutes tardy must be accompanied to the main office by their parent or guardian to obtain a tardy slip. All tardies over 30 minutes must have a parent signature or an official doctor's note. Three tardies over 30 minutes without such documentation will result in a truancy notice.

Keep JOOI (JOY) at LdV

We are looking for a teacher or parent, interested in sponsoring the LDV JOOI Club. (Junior Optimist Octagon International). Teacher David Komar established the LdV club four years ago for children, grades 4 to 6 to create community service projects to help others. We have been successful in fundraising for Homeward Bound, a Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary program that needed medical supplies for dogs hurt in California's wildfires. The club also organized a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to raise funds for the Deftones bassist Chi Cheng, a parent at the school. Chi was in a car accident in early November 2008 and was in a coma. During that time, he had medical insurance but it ran out and needed money for physical therapy. That year, the club's ten, twelve year old girls decided to have a Pancake Breakfast in the school's cafeteria and generated four thousand dollars toward Chi's medical bills. The following year, the children's efforts have included fundraising for Holiday Baskets and donating to economically challenged families at our school. This year, the club's 25 members organized an Uncle Jer's Cookie Fundraiser, held in November/December, 2010 and they raised five hundred dollars for the Sacramento SPCA. We organized a fieldtrip to the SPCA and the Education Manager thanked the children for their donation to the organization and gave them a guided tour of the SPCA Complex. LdV has also benefited from the Breakfast Optimist Club' in many ways, with their LdV JOOI Club's Start Up Program, an LdV Holiday Basket Program, and a LdV Scholarship Program for students with special needs to attend Sly Park Environmental Education Program. Mr Komar would be willing to assist an interested teacher or parent, please contact him in room 21 or at 277-6496 ext 21 for more information.

Got Wheels?

Looking for a ride for my daughter from LdV to home in East Sac two days per week. Please contact Mario at 916/ 612-8824 or 456-2804. Limited volunteer hours available.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE 2011-2012

Be a Yearbook Rep

Do you enjoy photography? Scrapbooking? Journaling? The Yearbook Committee is looking for a minimum of one representative per classroom and activity to help document all of the wonderful activities and events at LdV. If you are interested in representing your class or activity, be sure to let your teacher know and sign up at Back to School night to be your class or activity Yearbook Rep. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the Library.

Is Sales in Your Blood?

Are you a born sales person? The Yearbook Committee needs a sales person to help with ad sales for this year's book. Interested, contact Brandi Sidley (brandi@sidleystudios.com or 916-505-7917).

Be a Yearbook Photographer – Get Free Photography Lessons

We will also be hosting a Photo Clinic for all yearbook photographers taught by Brandi Sidley, a professional photographer. The first Photo Clinic will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 in Brandi's home near the school. If you are interested in the Photo Clinic, please contact Brandi (brandi@sidleystudios.com or 916-505-7917).

First Day Packets

It takes a lot of people to put together the first day packets. Hours go into accumulating important information and creating flyers, copying and trimming. Collating 25 pages, and stuffing and labeling the envelopes took over five hours. Counting and delivering envelopes took another hour.

I bet you can neatly and completely fill out and complete less than 22 pages (per student) in less time. Then just send them back to school.

HUGE Thanks

to the wonderful volunteers who helped with the first day packets!