Welcome!
Welcome to Da Vinci’s first school newsletter. We as a school wanted to create a publication to send out to our parents, students and staff to inform our Da Vinci family about upcoming events, share exciting news, or simply spread Da Vinci School Spirit. For instance, we received our 2018 State Academic Accountability Rating. Burnham Wood Charter School District received an “A”! Da Vinci School as well as Howard Burnham Elementary scored a grade of 92. Of the 1,200 districts in Texas, only 153 (12.8%) earned an A overall rating.

Sincerely,

Delia Longoria
Delia Longoria

Upcoming Dates:

- **11/9** - Report Cards Issued
- **11/10** - Robotics FTC Meet, 10:00am at Da Vinci
- **11/19-11/23** - Fall Break, No School
- **12/3-12/7** - End of Course Retake Exams
- **12/7** - Progress Reports Issued
- **12/21** - Student Early Dismissal
- **12/24-1/7** - Winter Break, No School
Da Vinci's First Homecoming

BY KATHERINE BOWARD
Smiles, laughter, and funny costumes filled the hallways of Da Vinci the week of October 26th, as both students and faculty participated in Da Vinci’s first ever Homecoming Week. The week kicked off with a pep rally followed by our first Homecoming Football game, in which the Varsity Football team defeated El Paso Christian Home School. Throughout the week, students and faculty also dressed up each day according to the Wizard of Oz-themed day. Themes included “There’s No Place Like Home” (Pajama Day), “Which Witch is Which?” (Twin Day), and “Oz the Great and Powerful” (School Colors Day).

Later in the week, our school hosted its first Powderpuff Football game where the senior and junior girls played against the sophomore and freshmen girls. It was a close game; however, during the last play, the freshmen and sophomore ladies scored a touchdown and won the game. To end our great Homecoming Week, the cheerleaders hosted the school’s very first Homecoming Dance. During the dance, Da Vinci’s Student Council announced our school’s first Homecoming Court. The student body crowned the following students: Derek Garcia, 2018 Duke, Yesenia Contreras, 2018 Duchess, Emiliano Mayorga, 2018 Prince, Monserrat Cota, 2018 Princess, Valeria Vichis Ramos, 2018 Homecoming Queen, and Sebastian Contreras, 2018 Homecoming King.

Academics

BY CHRISTINA BUCKROP
ONRAMPs
The 2018-2019 school year has brought on some amazing changes to the academic rigor of our classes. Da Vinci is now a proud partner with University of Texas at Austin’s OnRamp’s Program. Students work with both a high school teacher, as well as a UT Austin faculty member who evaluates students’ progress according to University standards. OnRamps Students have the opportunity to earn college credit from UT Austin, which are accepted at any public university or college in Texas (as well as many private an non-Texas institutions).

CURRENTLY WE OFFER:
- Computer Science
- English: Rhetoric & Writing
- Geoscience
- US History
- Pre-Cal

DUAL CREDIT
In addition to OnRamps courses, students have the ability to earn college credit through online courses. Please see our counselor Mrs. Buckrop if you are interested in taking online courses next semester.

44% of our high school students are enrolled in college level classes

COLLEGE REMINDERS
- Make sure you are keeping up with college deadlines! Please see Mrs. Buckrop if you need a college organizer.
- Complete and turn in your FAFSA application at FAFSA.gov.
- If you need a letter of recommendation, fill out and return your student evaluation packet.
- Transcript requests are due 20 days before a college application deadline.
- Dec. 3rd is the next SAT registration deadline.
Dia de Muertos
BY MRS. IRMA DURON & MRS. JIMENA MONTES
On November 2nd, our Spanish students presented their Day of the Dead Altars exhibition and contest. The Day of the Dead is represented as one of the most iconic traditions of Mexican culture that has become increasingly popular internationally. UNESCO (Organization of the United Nations for Education, Science, and Culture) declared, in 2003, the indigenous festival of the Day of the Dead, a masterpiece of the cultural heritage of humanity. This festivity represents one of the most relevant examples of the living heritage of Mexico and the world, as well as one of the oldest and most fulfilled cultural expressions of the indigenous groups that currently inhabit Mexico. This is why this cultural experience is so relevant for our students who take Spanish classes. Congratulations on the effort and dedication from all our students.

Honorific mention: ALTAR FOR PICASSO
Cameron Dimery, James Dudu, Diego Mendoza and Daniel Morales

First place: ALTAR FOR FRIDA KAHLO
Angela Yñarritu, Alex Castro, Suzette Frescas y Jamilette Sotelo.

Second place: ALTAR FOR ANTONIO BERNI
Theoren Markusso, Maximon Richardson, Isaar Rodriguez and Alfredo Sanchez.

Third place: ALTAR FOR GASPAR HENANIE “CAPULINA”
Amelia Rubio, Aida Chacon, Sebastian Velez and Alicia Cook.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

"This festivity represents one of the most relevant examples of the living heritage of Mexico and the world.."

Robotics
BY ALBERTO MUNOZ
The Da Vinci DragonBots Robotics Team will be hosting its second annual Robotics Qualifying Competition which will be held on November 10th, starting at 8:00 am to about 3:00 pm. There are 13 teams slated to compete, including our own two teams DragonBots Gold and Silver. Last year’s event was praise by UTEP and the visiting teams as being one of the best attended. This year we hope to get the same accolades and maybe even set the bar higher. Help us support these talented students who started with nothing but an idea and lots of parts, to build a functioning robot to accomplish different tasks set out by FIRSTInspires.org directors. This year’s goals are to take two teams to regionals and then to the World Competition in Houston, Texas. Please join us as a volunteer or just a spectator to cheer on these bright students as they compete this coming weekend!
**Orchestra**

**BY DAVID HAMILTON**

Each year music teachers across the state of Texas gather to select music for their top students to perform for an audition in October. If selected, students join an "All Star" Orchestra comprising of the best of the best in our Region. After the audition, those students are given music to learn for a concert in November. The clinic and concert are a two-day event, Friday evening and all-day Saturday, where these All-Star students get together for the first time and rehearse the music with an expert and guest conductor. Saturday evening the students perform together.

Three Da Vinci Orchestra students were involved in the “Texas Music Educators Association Orchestra MS Region 22 All Region Competition.” We are so proud of our students here at Da Vinci!

Jasmin Looney made 9th chair concert orchestra 1st Violin
Marco Nevarez made 20th chair Concert Orchestra 2nd Violin
Jonah Demorris made 1st Alternate in the Prelude Orchestra.

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**Athletics**

**FOOTBALL**
The 2018-2019 school year got off to a great start for Da Vinci Athletics, with the addition of flag football for both middle school and high school. The Middle school football team finished the season with a record of 6 wins and 1 loss, the only loss occurring during the SWAACA championship game against St. Clements. The Middle school boys finished a great season with second place overall.

**VOLLEYBALL**
This year’s Volleyball team included 7th grade, 8th grade and high School teams. All teams were over .500 in the win percentage. Our 8th grade lady dragons finished the year in 4th place overall in SWAACA, while the Varsity girls finished in 3rd Overall in league play. Our programs did an excellent job and we are very proud of all the students. We invite parents and students to all sporting events. Wrestling and basketball season is just beginning. Come support our athletes!

**CHEERLEADING**
If you have attended any recent DaVinci sporting events, you may have noticed a group of girls on the sideline jumping, giggling, and cheering. This year DaVinci has added cheerleading to their list of sports. The cheerleading team includes students from 7th - 10th grade. DaVinci’s cheerleaders are not the stereotypical cheerleaders you may see on t.v.; these cheerleaders are hardworking, dedicated role models throughout school. Many of the cheerleaders are heavily involved in other afterschool activities such as student council, robotics, and National Junior Honor Society.

Recently, our cheerleaders set a goal to raise money for a school mascot. They believe having a school mascot will boost school spirit. After hosting Homecoming week and the Homecoming dance, the cheerleaders are half way to their goal. If you would like to contribute or support the cheerleaders’ goal, please contact Mrs. Elkins (kelkins@burnhamwood.org) or Ms. Boward (kboward@burnhamwood.org).

"Exciting things are happening at Da Vinci, both academically and with our many programs."