



RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVI, Issue 4

January 2010

Mission

The mission of Renner Middle School, a shared responsibility of home, school and community, is to provide education which nurtures, inspires and challenges students in their uniqueness, preparing them to be contributing members of society.

Renner Round-Up

is published six times a year by the Renner PTA.

5701 W. Parker
Plano, TX 75093

Principal :
Bill McLaughlin

PTA President :
Carolyn Keeter

Newsletter
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Allison Choucair

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ATTENTION ALL RENNER MS STUDENTS AND PARENTS!

BUY YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

Ordering Procedures have changed for the 2010 yearbook. Josten's will NOT mail order forms directly to students' homes.

Purchases can be made with a credit card by going to www.jostensyearbooks.com until January 28th.

Yearbooks may also be ordered and paid with cash on one day only, February 4th, in the Renner MS office. No checks.

You're in it!
How many books can you say that about?

Buy your yearbook now at jostensyearbooks.com



January/February 2010 Calendar

January

- 18 Martin Luther King Holiday
- 19 Informal 6th & 7th grade Parent Meeting for 2010-11 Registration
- 21 Parade of Nations, 7-8:15pm, Plano Center
- 26 NJHS Meeting, 3:40pm, cafeteria
- 28 Last Day to Order Yearbook at www.jostensyearbooks.com
- 29 PTA Board Interest Forms Due

February

- 2 5th grade Parent Informational meeting, Renner
- 4 Yearbooks may be purchased for \$30 cash in the Renner front office - February 4th ONLY
- 8 PTA Board Meeting, 9:15am PTA General Meeting, 10am
Shepton HS Informational counseling meeting for 8th graders during school
- 9 Principal's Coffee, 9:30am, library
- 9-Mar 26 Shepton Counselors to meet with 8th Graders and Parents during their assigned conference times
- 11 8th Grade Parent Meeting at Shepton HS, 7:30pm
- 15 Presidents' Day - Student Holiday, Professional Development Day
- 18 Teacher Treats, End of 4th Six Weeks
- 23 NJHS Meeting, 3:40pm, cafeteria
Shepton Roundtable for Incoming 9th Graders, 7pm, Frankford Middle School
- 24 Renner Roundtable for Incoming 6th Graders, 6:30pm, Renner
- 26 Report Cards



ARE YOU CONNECTED TO RENNER?

Listed below are several ways to make sure you know what is going on at Renner and in PISD:

The Mustang Messenger

Are you receiving this email from Renner each Friday? If not go to www.pisd.edu and click on the e-news icon and sign up for Renner and any other school your students attend.

Renner PTA Website

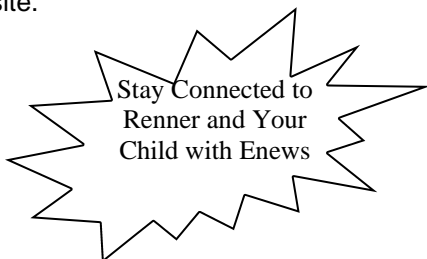
www.rennerpta.org will give you updated calendars and events going on at Renner. It will also give you a list of board members to contact if you have questions or would like to become more involved.

The Renner Activity Line

Did you know that you can call the main number at Renner (469) 752-5800 and press 9 to get all of the activities and events going on that week? This is updated every Sunday night.

Parent Portal

This is a new feature on the PISD website (www.pisd.edu). Last year only Parent Viewer was offered as a way for parents to keep up with grades and absences in each class. Now there is a Library Link that accesses any online curriculum that PISD uses. Depending on the teacher, all of the handouts and extra helps are available to parents and students. Some of the other features include a current PISD calendar, announcements in the district, and your student's Learning Growth Charts. Please take the time to see what all is available on this site.





The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Ahhh... the Joys of Testing Removing Anxiety from the Testing Season

We all know that testing is a part of a student's life at school. As parents and educators we do our very best to prepare students so that they can perform at a level that shows what they have learned. I remember as a kid sitting at my desk hoping that a teacher would write a question on a topic that I had studied for the previous night. Of course we all went to school well before the high stakes testing that exists today. As principal, I definitely feel the stress in the spring testing season because I want all our kids to be successful, but is it good for students to feel that same stress level?

I think the answer to that question is that while some level of concern and attention is good, feeling stress about taking a test is not good. All students worry to some degree about whether they will do well on unit, semester, and TAKS testing. This is normal. Some students' anxiety and worry extend beyond normal nervousness to the point that it impacts their performance. Many students place too much pressure on themselves before they take a test. This can cause students to miss questions that they should be able to answer correctly. Below I have listed some tips provided by author T.J. Huberty that all parents can use to help their child prior to testing:

- Maintain realistic, attainable goals and expectations for your child
- Avoid being overly critical, impatient, or disparaging
- Do not communicate that perfection is expected or is the only acceptable outcome
- Accept mistakes as a normal part of growing up and communicate this to your child
- Practice and rehearse upcoming events that might be the cause of anxiety
- Expose your child to the types of questions that they will see on a test (critical thinking skills, TAKS formatted questions, reading graphs, etc.)
- Teach your child simple strategies to help with anxiety, such

The Principal's Column, continued

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal



as organizing materials and time, developing small “scripts” of what to do and say when anxiety increases or the questions become difficult, and learning how to relax under stressful conditions. Sometimes just stopping for a second and taking a deep breath can help.

- Praise and reinforce effort
- Do not treat feelings, questions, and statements about being anxious as silly or unimportant

Another tip that Huberty recommends is using practice tests as rehearsals for the real testing situation. At my house when I pull out the practice TAKS math questions, I usually hear my daughters yell to their Mom, “Dad is going into principal mode at home again.” Some practice is good for kids as they prepare for big events. I was looking at the results from last year’s TAKS results and saw that some of the more difficult questions came in the later parts of the test. Talking to students prior to the event, building their confidence that they can be successful, and encouraging them to fall back on strategies that you have discussed when the test gets tough will help them be successful.

Creating positive experiences in a practice setting helps them prepare for the real event. Too much emphasis and pressure creates stress, which may not help our kids do their best. I have listed the link to the TEA website that has TAKS tests from previous years and can allow your child to get practice at home on the different tests they will take. It will also give you the opportunity to bring out the inner principal in you at home.

Find TAKS tests that have been released by the state from previous years at www.tea.state.us. Click the “released TAKS test” tab. The state has both an interactive online version as well as a hard copy of past tests of all subjects.

Bill McLaughlin, Principal





The President's Column

By Carolyn Keeter, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President

As we look forward to a wonderful new year, I hope each of you will set a goal to stay involved and connected at Renner to help your child reach his or her highest potential.

The Texas PTA Life Member award is given to individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Renner PTA and the students and families of Renner. In December, the Renner PTA awarded the Texas PTA Life Member award to four very deserving individuals; **Jill Dardick, Laura Morris, Kent Newman and Stephen Tyler**. Jill has served on the Renner PTA as the 3rd VP of Ways and Means, the 4th VP of Membership, and is currently the Care Coordinator and always willing to help with any job that comes along. She has also volunteered at Brinker Elementary as a Room Representative, Spirit Wear Coordinator and 5th grade Coordinator. Laura Morris is currently the Parliamentarian of the Renner PTA. She has served on the Centennial PTA as Parliamentarian, Legislative Chair and as a Room Mom for numerous years. In addition, Laura serves on many committees at her church, is a grade level coordinator for National Charity League, and is a past president of the Plano Chapter of Young Men's Service League. Kent Newman is in his third year of teaching 8th grade Science both regular and honors, and serves as the Comet team leader. He truly makes science come alive for his students because he has such a vast background in science and has many stories to tell the students that relate to the science curriculum. Stephen Tyler is in his fourth year at Renner. He coaches 8th grade boys' football and basketball, teaches PE classes for 6th through 8th grades, and also serves as the sponsor of the Renner FCA. He was born and raised in Plano having graduated from Plano Senior High School in 1994. They will be honored in February at an awards evening.

The volunteers at Renner were extremely busy in November and December. First I would like to thank **Jill Blackwell** for coordinating a wonderful Reflections contest at Renner. We had many outstanding entries with 6 going on to the regional competition (see all the results on page 8). Great job and lots of hard work! **Lori Gropper** coordinated the Dolphin Hall luncheon in November. No one went away hungry! Thanks Lori. The Winter Luncheon for the teachers was held on December 11th. **Mary Kay Drury** and her volunteers did a wonderful job. I know the teachers and staff really enjoyed it. **Lori Baum** did an outstanding job with the Adopt – a – Platoon for the holidays. She made many trips to the post office to ship all the donated items. This was our second year to participate in this program and I think we outdid last year's donations. Thank you to the Renner family for providing for the

The President's Column, continued

By Carolyn Keeter, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President



troops. The Science Fair was a huge success thanks to the efforts of **Jan Richard** and **Mrs. Gunnels**. Thank you to **Ruth Kaminski** who solicited volunteers to provide food and manpower for the PISD Holiday Luncheon at the administration building. Once again **Jenny Craig** and **Becky Tanoury** provided an unbelievable Teacher Treat Day. You could smell the goodies when you walked in the front office. Thank you to all of the volunteers who donated items for that day.

There are many events coming up in the next month. The calendar on page 2 of the newsletter shows all events, but I wanted to highlight a few. The last **Principal's Coffee** for this school year will be held on **Tuesday, February 9th** at 9:30am. This is a great time to connect with some Renner parents and faculty. It is very informative and has a time for questions and answers. If you have not attended one this year, please try to make this one. Shepton High School is inviting all current **8th Grade parents** to a parent meeting on **February 11th** at **7:30 p.m.** This meeting will be held at Shepton and is a wonderful time to learn about Shepton from the counselors and staff. **The Renner Roundtable** will be on **Wednesday, February 24th** at 6:30pm in the library and is for incoming 6th grade parents. If you have a 5th grader right now or know one, please let them know about this informative program. We will have 8th graders and some staff here to answer any questions that parents or students might have. It is open to parents and students who will be attending Renner next year. We started this program last year and it was a huge success.

The Renner PTA has provided many wonderful items for the teachers through the Teacher Grant Program. The teachers and staff apply for these grants. The grants are given for programs or instructional aides for all of our students that the teachers and staff feel will help them enrich the educational experience for the Renner students. There is a complete list of these grants on page 9.

I want to say thank you to all the PTA Board members for the 2009 – 2010 school year. You are an incredible team. The PTA Board is beginning to look for new members for the 2010-2011 school year. If you would like to join this dynamic and uplifting team, please contact myself at president@rennerpta.org or Laura Morris at parliamentarian@rennerpta.org. Being a part of the PTA team will provide you with an excellent opportunity to make a difference in the lives of all Renner students and another great way to get more connected at Renner.

Continued on page 8

The President's Column, continued

Please read the interest finder on pages 11-15, which provides a brief description of each position, and consider which one best suits your interests, talents, and time constraints. We are waiting for YOU!

As always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments for PTA.

Carolyn Keeter • Renner PTA President • president@rennerpta.org

Reflections 2009 - 2010 Results

"Beauty is..." By Jill Blackwell, Arts in Education Chair-

Renner's Got Talent and boy did they show it!
The Reflections judging is now complete and the results are in.

The following individuals received an **Award of Excellence** and will be advancing to the Regional PTA Reflections Program:

Name	Grade	Category
Nirali Thakor	6	Photography
Brianna Perkins	7	Visual Arts
Connor Griffith	8	Visual arts
Nirali Thakor	6	Visual arts
Phoebe Lee	7	Visual arts
Michael Moore	7	Music

The following individuals received **Merit Awards**:

Narahari Bharadwaj	7	Photography
Sarah Stephen	7	Photography
Sarah Stephen	7	Literature
Ricky Rajani	8	Visual arts

And the following individuals received **Honorable Mention**:

Narahari Bharadwaj	7	Photography
Esther Tans	7	Literature
Allie Schmidt	6	Visual arts
Umveena Bashir	6	Visual arts

Congratulations to all of our participants!

RENNER PTA GRANTS AWARDED

(See page 7 for discussion of Grant process)

Program Title	Teacher	Cost
Renner Readers	E. Allred	\$ 111.60
AVID Team Building	E. Allred	\$ 875.00
6 th Grade Math Versa Tile	S. Sutherland	\$ 1,050.00
Fine Arts –Lap Top	Hatcher/Schettler	\$ 1,100.00
Formative Assessment Tools-History Dept.	L. Evans	\$ 899.00
TAKS Coach	D. Reynolds	\$ 999.99
Empowering ESL Student Library	Rough/Karan	\$ 600.00
Science Manipulatives	K.Gunnels	\$ 993.35
Triple Beam Balance	K. Gunnels	\$ 1,500.00
Leadership Book Set	K. Brown	\$ 290.00
2 Basketball Goals	K. Brown	\$ 1,304.98
7 th Grade Math Centers & Tutorials	J. Kozlowski	\$ 1,176.00
Mustang Money	A. Hunter	\$ 1,200.00
Digital Camera Centralized Structured Classroom	J. Bilgri	\$ 208.00
9 Graphing Calculators	A. Schlinkman	\$ 900.00
Color Poster Maker	T. Mitchell	\$ 1,703.00
6 th Grade Readers	M. Fuller	\$ 793.65
Am I Smarter Than This Game? –Math	J. Kozlowski	\$ 551.98
“Making the Grade”	C. Frank	\$ 400.00
“Voices” Oral History of Nov. 22, 1963	S. Andrade	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
TOTAL PTA GRANTS AWARDED		<u>\$17,206.55</u>

Volunteer Opportunities at Renner!...

Attention 6th Grade Parents!

Volunteers Needed for Teacher Lunches

In January and February, we will be hosting the Penguin, Sea Otter, and Music Department lunches for the teachers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lori Gropper at lkgropper@msn.com.



The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

March 4th - 11th

This year's book fair will be held in the Renner library from Thursday, March 4th to Thursday, March 11th, 2010. As always, we will have a great selection of all kinds of books from Scholastic! We would love to have as many volunteers as possible. Please contact Holly Blais at hnblais@verizon.net if you are interested.

Home-cooked Meals for the Staff



Wouldn't it be nice to have a home-cooked meal at the end of a long day? Don't miss the opportunity to prepare a casserole for your child's favorite teachers! We present each teacher and staff member a casserole during Teacher Appreciation Week May 3rd - May 7th. Just call or email Katherine Sigrist, Casserole Coordinator, at (972) 378-4061 or casserole@rennerpta.org. Help show our Renner faculty and staff how appreciated they really are!!

Renner PTA Nominating Committee Volunteers Needed..

The Renner Nominating Committee is in the process of being formed. The committee, which is comprised of 5 members and two alternates, is responsible for presenting nominees to the general membership for the following PTA Executive board positions:

- President
- First Vice President - Programs
- Second Vice President - Volunteers
- Third Vice President - Ways and Means
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If you would be interested in serving on the PTA Nominating Committee, please contact the PTA parliamentarian, Laura Morris, at parliamentarian@rennerpta.org or (972) 378-9515 by **January 29th, 2010**. The Nominating Committee will be elected at the General PTA meeting on February 8th.



2010 - 2011 Renner PTA Board

Are you looking for a way to get more involved at Renner?

The Renner PTA is looking for dedicated, energetic parents to serve on the 2010-2011 Board. The Renner PTA Board is formed of men and women who volunteer to plan and coordinate activities that support our students and school. We would love to have you get involved and help shape the organization for years to come. Please review the Renner PTA Interest Form on pages 12-14 to see what positions might interest you. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact the Parliamentarian Laura Morris via email at parliamentarian@rennerpta.org or (972) 378-9515, or fill out an interest form. The interest forms are due by **January 29, 2010** in the Renner PTA file located in the front office.

Officer & Chairman Volunteer Interest Form 2010 - 2011 School Year

The six officer positions to be recommended by the nominating committee and elected at the March 8th General Membership Meeting are: President, 1st VP – Programs, 2nd VP – Volunteers, 3rd VP – Ways and Means, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President appoints the remaining Executive Board positions of Historian and Parliamentarian. Once the officers are in place, they will begin the process of appointing the Chairmen for Standing and Special Committees for the 2010 – 2011 school year. The duties of the PTA Officers and Chairmen are briefly described below. For a more complete description, please refer to the Renner PTA by-laws posted at www.rennerpta.org.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please complete this form and return it to Renner, attention: Laura Morris, Parliamentarian, by January 29th to be included for consideration. Please contact Laura Morris at parliamentarian@rennerpta.org if you have any questions about the election process or job descriptions.

PTA Member Name _____	Phone _____
Student(s) at Renner: (2010 - 2011 school year)	
Name _____	Grade _____
Name _____	Grade _____
Name _____	Grade _____

OFFICERS

____ **President** Coordinate the work of the officers and committee chairmen. Preside at all meetings of the association, and represent the local unit as a delegate to council, State, and National PTA.

____ **First V.P. – Programs** Act as aide to the President. Plan educational, parenting, special, and general PTA meeting programs.

____ **Second V.P. – Volunteers** Organize and coordinate all volunteer programs and activities. Maintain record of all volunteer hours.

____ **Third V.P. – Ways and Means** Organize and coordinate all fundraising activities and develop fundraising strategy.

____ **Secretary** Record minutes of all meetings, notify board members of upcoming meetings, keep attendance records and maintain PTA office supplies.

____ **Treasurer** Act as custodian of all PTA funds, maintain all bank records and present financial statements, prepare tax return for year served. Also serve as Chairman of budget committee.

____ **Historian** Act as custodian of records and materials related to the history of the PTA, record school/PTA events and activities, prepare school scrapbook. Work closely with the Yearbook committee.

____ **Parliamentarian** Coordinate yearly by-laws review committee and nominating committee and attend all PTA meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEES

____ **Arts in Education Chairman** Responsible for the publicity, promotion and participation in the National PTA's Reflections program.

____ **Environmental Chairman** Responsible for the promotion and participation in environmental awareness programs including the PTA's Recycling program.

____ **Faculty Representative** Serve as a liaison between the faculty and the PTA executive board.

____ **Hospitality/Newcomer Chairman** Coordinate hospitality committee. Responsible for Back to School coffee, Renner family social activities, Newcomers' coffees, PTA Winter and End of Year luncheons. Maintain hospitality supplies.

____ **Legislative Chairman** Attend meetings of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees and report to executive board. Keep aware of the Legislative actions of the Texas and National PTA.

____ **Renner Round-Up Chairman** Procure news information/articles to develop and publish the Renner Round-Up.

____ **Safety/Youth Protection Chairman** Plan and develop programs for securing protection for neighborhood youth. Develop, coordinate, and monitor all safety programs.

____ **School Store Chairman** Responsible for the selection and sales of all school store items. Maintain purchase records and weekly deposits with treasurer. Sell school supplies at registration.

____ **Teacher Appreciation Chairman** Plan and organize faculty/staff appreciation activities. Staff in service luncheon, six week teacher treats, winter luncheon and Teacher Appreciation Week activities.

____ **Spirit Wear Coordinator** Select, sell and distribute all spiritwear.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

____ **Birthday Cake Coordinator** Coordinate volunteers to provide a cake to recognize faculty birthdays.

Continued on page 14

_____ **Book Fair Coordinator** Schedule, promote and implement all Book Fairs.

_____ **Calendar and Activities Line Coordinator** Secure school calendar dates for publication and sale at registration. Record weekly activities on the phone line.

_____ **Care Coordinator** Send greeting cards (congratulations, sympathy) or memorials to faculty/staff.

_____ **Casserole Coordinator** Coordinate all activities to provide casseroles for staff at the end of the year.

_____ **Community Outreach Coordinator** Responsible for planning, maintaining and publicizing collections from Renner students for non-profit organizations. Works with counselors for the Families-In-Need Fund.

_____ **Directory Coordinator** Responsible for organizing, developing, publication and distribution of a school student directory.

_____ **Directory Advertising Coordinator** Responsible for soliciting, billing, and final advertising inclusion in the Renner student directory.

_____ **Library Volunteer Coordinator** Responsible for scheduling volunteers to assist the Librarian as needed.

_____ **Office and Copy Coordinator** Responsible for scheduling volunteers for photocopying, the front office, and the counselors.

_____ **PTA Website Coordinator** Develop and maintain PTA website with pertinent and current school year information.

_____ **Partnership Coordinator** Develop and maintain PTA contacts with potential partnership organizations and secure donations for designated events.

_____ **Round-Up Distribution Coordinator** Responsible for labeling and mailing the Renner Round-Up.

_____ **Staff/Team Luncheons Coordinator** Coordinate volunteers to provide a luncheon for each Renner faculty team and the administration. One coordinator per grade: _____6th _____7th _____8th

_____ **Student Socials Coordinator** Coordinate two school-sponsored student socials, one per semester. Work with school personnel in implementing 8th Grade End-of-School event.

_____ **Yard Sign/Decal Coordinator** Work with school personnel in coordinating the sale and distribution of activity related yard signs and vehicle decals.

Continued on page 15

___ **Science Fair Chairman** Coordinate the Science Fair with the Science teacher who is in charge of the Renner Science Fair. Enlist any volunteers that might be needed for the event.

___ **Yearbook** Work with the faculty member producing the Renner Yearbook. Take pictures at events and help with page layouts when needed.

ORDER YOUR RENNER SPIRIT WEAR!

Got Renner spirit wear? We have t-shirts, gym shorts, drawstring duffel bags, and sweatshirts available now in the School Store! Stop by the School Store any time during lunch (11am-1pm) to buy a new sweatshirt, t-shirt, or more! All prices include sales tax.



- T-shirts.....\$12
- Pullover Hoodie.....\$25
- Zip-up Hoodie.....\$28
- Girls shorts.....\$12
- Boys shorts.....\$17
- Gym bags.....\$ 9

If paying by check, please make check payable to Renner PTA and include your drivers license information on the front of your check.

For more information, please email Kim Brown, Spirit Wear coordinator, at shirts@rennerpta.org.

Directory Addition

Please add the following to your Renner Student Directory:

Velma Johnson
5050 Haverwood Lane #1026
Dallas, TX 75287

Krystal Johnson – 7th grade

Phone: (469) 828-0895

Cell: (214) 287-4627

Email: vjohnson@dcccd.edu

**Congratulations Renner MS!
Renner has been selected as a
“High Performing Middle School”**



The NCEA (National Center for Education Achievement) has selected Renner Middle School as a High Performing Middle School. These schools grow students' academic performance more than students at similar middle schools.

Way to go Renner!!!!

**Shepton Roundtable
Tuesday, February 23rd
7:00pm - Frankford MS**

This informal program is for incoming 9th graders for the 2010 - 2011 school year. It is open to all parents and students who will be attending Shepton next year. The Shepton principal, counselors, and several students representing various clubs and activities will be there to answer questions. If you have a current 8th grader going to Shepton next year, you will not want to miss it!

**Renner Roundtable
Wednesday, February 24th
6:30pm - Renner Library**

This informal program is for incoming 6th graders for the 2010 - 2011 school year. It is open to all parents and students who will be attending Renner next year. Renner 8th graders and staff will be here to answer questions. If you have a current 5th grader or know one, please let them know about this program.

2009-2010 Renner Directory Advertisers!!

**WOW - We have Terrific Support from our
Renner Families/Businesses!**

These are businesses that have made a tremendous contribution to your school! Want more info? Go to the Directory Sponsor Section of your Student Directory.

Back Cover: ROYAL EXPRESS CAR WASH (The Perkins Family)

Inside Covers: SAVVY AND CHIC (The Kenvin Family)

LONE STAR AUTO GROUP (The Craig Family)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Sponsor Name</u>
Adult Dentistry	David Stock, DDS
Automobile Sales/Service	Lone Star Auto Group
Café and Bakery	Chocolate Angel Too
Car Wash	Royal Express Car Wash
Counseling Services	CITY House Family Center
Country Club	Gleneagles Country Club
Design/Remodeling	AshLake Design & Remodeling
Etiq/Pers Enrich. Wkshops	Savvy and Chic
Family Medicine	Family Medicine at Willow Bend
Financial Planning	Abe P. Mansour, CFP
Flooring	Karndean International
Fossil	Fossil
Gen. & Cosmetic Dentistry	Star Ranch Dental
Graphic Design	Jan Jenkins Poston
Insurance	Larry D. Sandlin, State Farm
Interior Design	Room Service Redesign
Jewelry, Custom	Olschwanger Designs
Martial Arts	Shaolin Wu-Yi Institute
Mary Kay	Eunice Armstrong
Medical-Legal Consultants	Rodenbaugh and Associates, LLC
OB/GYN	Personalized Women's Healthcare
Orthodontics	George Q. Adams, Orthodontics
Orthodontics	Genecov Orthodontics
Party Planning	A Little Help Party Planning
Printing Services	Allegra Print and Imaging
Real Estate	Lynda K. Fisher, Bob Reuther
Real Estate	Nancy Markham
Real Estate	Cindy O'Gorman
Real Estate	Ann O'Blenes
Recreation Sports	Plano Sports Authority
Remodeling	Regenesi Remodeling
Tutoring Center	Plano SAT Master
Women, Healthcare	Plano Healthcare for Women

Counselor Notes:

8th Grade Academic Conferences

The 8th grade academic conferences will be scheduled beginning February 9th, through March 26th, 2010. We will schedule group sessions to last approximately 1 1/2 hours. During this time we will make a tentative four-year plan and complete online enrollment for ninth grade.

These are important decisions for your child and your attendance is appreciated. If you are unable to attend, your child will still meet with us and he/she can share the information with you. The counselors are eager to help your child with academic planning, and we urge you to make every effort to attend the meeting. Parents will receive a letter by mail with their conference date & time.

Counseling Dates of Interest

- January 15 - 6th and 7th Grade Registration Informational Meeting
- January 19 - 6th and 7th Informal Parent Meeting in Library, 3:30-5pm
 - OCPE Spring Application Deadline
- February 2 - Informational Meeting for 5th Grade Parents
- February 4 - 6th Graders enter Course Requests with Counselors
- February 5 - 7th Graders enter Course Requests with Counselors
- February 8 - Shepton HS Informational Meeting for 8th graders
- February 9 - March 26 - 8th Grade Academic Conferences
- February 11 - Parent Information Night at Shepton

SPRING TAKS TESTING

The Spring 2010 TAKS testing schedule is below.
Please make a note of the dates and tests that apply to your child:

Date	TAKS/TAKS M Test	Grade
March 3	Writing	7
April 6	Math	8
April 7	Reading	8
April 27	Math	6 & 7
April 28	Reading	6 & 7
April 29	Science	8
April 30	Social Studies	8

Counselor Notes, continued:



Growing Up Cellular

You hardly see teenagers these days without a cell phone in their hands. Even while hanging out together in person, kids are often texting or talking to others on their cell phones. Admit it, when you were a teen, your parents probably thought you talked too much on the phone as well. But is this constant contact too much of a good thing?

Tips for Middle School Parents

Explain that cell phones are expensive – extras cost money.

You may be billed for ring tones, sports updates, or Web Access.

Make sure you have the right plan for calls or texts.

Phone plans range in minutes and texts allowed. If you have tweens and teens, get unlimited texting or you'll face huge bills.

Work out guidelines for use with your kids. No phones in class turn off the phone at night, and no phones at the dinner table are a few best practices.

Make sure your kids are using phones appropriately.

That means no rude sexy texts, no embarrassing photos or videos. For younger kids, monitoring their sent messages and received boxes is not a terrible idea (although they will think it is). You also should check the time of calls to make sure they are made within your established boundaries.

Talk about cyberbullying. Tell your kids to come to you if anything happens. And check their outgoing messages from time to time to make sure their communication is appropriate.

Tell you kids that sexual talk of any kind is not allowed.

Kids often jokingly use sexual language and sexually aggressive speech. Yet on a cell phone, it can be instantly forwarded to anyone out of context, and kids can get into all kinds of trouble.

Establish real consequences for violations of your rules. Like taking away the phones for a week!

www.practicalparent.org

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) News

Spring NJHS Meetings – Renner MS

2009-10 School Year

January 26 – Cafeteria 3:40pm, Valentines for teachers

February 23 – Cafeteria 3:40pm, reminders

March 30 – Cafeteria 3:40pm, points due

May 10 - Cafeteria 3:40pm, Induction Practice

May 11 – 6:30 in Cafeteria 6:30pm, NJHS Induction

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 NJHS Officers:

President: DeAngelo Garner

Teacher-Aide Chairman: Sarah Shao

Tutoring Chairman: Lisa Michaels

Fund-Raising Chairman: Evan Ray

Reminder :

Service points are due March 30, 2010



Opportunities for NJHS Hours!



Parade of Nations

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
At Plano Center
January 21st, 2010**



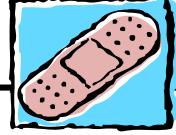
All Renner students are welcome to participate in the Parade of Nations as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Plano Center on January 21st. The event will take place in the Collinwood Hall from 7:00 to 8:15pm and will feature students from across Plano ISD performing in a variety of genres. The Parade of Nations is a highlight of this annual event because students represent their native countries by wearing traditional dress which is encouraged but not required. Many students also represent the United States by wearing red, white and blue.

NJHS members can receive two hours of community service by participating in this event. Students who participate will stay after school on January 21st and will be given a pizza dinner before being transported to the Plano Center by school bus. Parents will need to pick up their students afterwards and are encouraged to attend this free event and take pictures of their children.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to make friends from around the world and to show pride in their heritage. Students should contact Mrs. Karan in room 521 or Mrs. Rough in room 505 for information and permission slips.

Organic Recycling

Just a reminder for National Junior Honor Society students looking for community service hours - you can get those hours during school by helping out with the Organic Recycling program. **Students may earn up to 15 minutes a day simply by helping other students sort trash at the end of lunch.** There is a sign-up sheet in the cafeteria and Mrs. Lee (or other adults on lunch duty) will show you what to do. Students who sign up will be entered in a drawing for an iTunes gift card. This is a good way to help your school while earning needed service hours. Thanks as always for recycling!!

Nurse's Notes - by Judith Grace**Attention All Sixth Grade Parents**

Before your children will be allowed to enter 7th grade, they must meet the new Texas State Immunization Requirements. Students will not be permitted to pick up their 7th grade schedule until all the requirements have been met. Schedule pick up may seem a long way away, but in the midst of our busy lives, August 12, 2010 will be here sooner than we realize. Students will also not be allowed to attend school until the shots are received and documented with the nurse.

Under the new requirements, students entering grade 7 must have the following:

DPT within the last 5 years. This is the tetanus booster. Unless there is a medical reason, this booster should also contain Pertussis (whooping cough). It may appear on the shot record as DPT, TDaP, Adacel, TD, TT.

Meningitis Vaccine. This may appear as MCV, MCV4, Menactra, meningitis, or meningococcal vaccine.

Varicella Vaccine #2. This is the chicken pox vaccine. It may be listed as VV, Varicella, Varicella Vaccine or chicken pox. The first dose must have been given on or after the first birthday. If your child received the first varicella vaccine too early, he/she might have already received a second dose to make up for that mistake. If this is the case, they will actually need a third vaccine. Confused? We get that way too. *If your child has ever had the chicken pox disease they do not need to have any additional varicella vaccine.*

In the next few weeks, a copy of the immunizations currently on file for your child will be sent home. The immunizations that are needed will be indicated on that form. Compare this with your own records or contact your doctor's office to get an updated record. If your child still needs any of the shots, please arrange to do that before the end of the sixth grade year if at all possible. Then get a copy of that updated shot record to the school nurse. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Nurse's Notes, continued...

Reduced cost and free vaccines can be obtained through the Collin County Health Department. Contact them at (972) 548-5532 for more information on times and locations. Another resource is www.carevan.org. Some local pharmacies including Texas Star Pharmacy and Trinity Pharmacy also give vaccines at an affordable price.

It is possible to request certain exemptions from these vaccines, but this too requires paperwork. Please contact Miss Grace if you wish to pursue any exemption status.

If you have any questions or need help interpreting your child's shot record, please contact the school nurse, Judie Grace, at (469) 752-5809.

Technology Recycling

**Help Renner Recycle
Cell Phones Laptops, PDAs
& HP Cartridges for \$\$\$!**



Thank you to everyone who has sent used cell phones, PDAs and HP ink jet cartridges to Renner for recycling! We will continue to recycle these items throughout the school year. So keep Renner in mind when you replace or upgrade your technology.

HP Ink and Laser Jet Cartridges

Send your empty HP ink and laser jet cartridges placed in a plastic bag/baggie. Your student can put them in the designated container in the CTA Office (by the rotunda). For each empty HP inkjet cartridge we recycle, Renner receives **\$\$\$**. (Laserjet prices vary).

Cell Phones, Laptops and PDAs

We are also asking you to recycle your used cell phone, laptop and PDA through the school. When you upgrade, send your old item in a plastic bag to school. Renner will make money for everything we recycle. Visit <http://cartridgesforkids.com/pricesframe.html> to see what your item is worth in this recycle program!

Questions? Contact Tom Pittman, Renner CTA, at (469) 752-5806.

6th Grade Dolphins



In **Social Studies**, the Dolphins are continuing our look into past cultures who have given America so many gifts. The Cultural Borrowing Unit explores Ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance periods of history.

In **Language Arts**, our unit of study, "Painting Pictures with Words," focuses on descriptive language. The students are reading short stories and the novel, *Maniac Magee*, all of which include many examples of excellent descriptive language. Also, we are reading and sharing poetry and looking at how poets use words to create effective images. The unit will conclude with students upgrading one of their rough drafts into a final writing piece which demonstrates their understanding of this unit. Greek Roots are still quizzed on Thursday and spelling tests are on Friday. Thanks for your support; encourage your students to continue with quality work.

Our Dolphin **PACE** students are completing their study of mysteries by writing and performing group mystery plays. Our next unit will include reading *Star girl* and *The Giver*, two novels that deal with the themes of individuality and the role of the individual in society.

It has been an exciting six weeks in **Science**. We are currently learning about the wise use of our natural resources. Students will be exposed to a variety of energy transformations throughout this unit. They can identify the original and final form of energy transformation in various situations. Also, we are practicing how to design an experiment using an IVCDV chart. Our next unit in science is a journey with magnificent mammals, the humpback whales!! So be ready to sail with us.

6th grade **Math** has been hard at work computing tax, tips, and discounts. We will continue calculating percents of numbers. Soon your sons and daughters will be helping you calculate the bills at restaurants and doubling or even tripling recipes.



6th Grade Penguins

The teachers from the Penguin team hope everyone had a wonderful winter break! The Penguin team students are being good citizens and showing Renner pride. In all classes, this is a good opportunity for students to dig in to learning and do their best on their school work. Students should be encouraged to write in their agendas and finish all homework in order to give their grades a winter boost.

In **Science**, we have begun our journey aboard “The Mimi.” We set sail from Gloucester, Massachusetts, to research the humpback whales in the Gulf of Maine. During our voyage, we’ll be exploring a number of topics related to oceanography. We’ll begin by learning about cetaceans and then move on to ocean topography, ocean zones, and maps and navigation. Students will be taught about the history of whaling, the water cycle, and how to recognize and treat hypothermia. The kids will also be taking on the identity of a crew member and keeping a journal.

Social Studies students are beginning their third unit which is called “*Cultures in Transition*”. The students are studying the circumstances and effects of European colonialism in Latin America and Africa. They are learning basic economic and demographic terms and how to analyze data in order to understand the impact of history, governments, environment, and geography on the present conditions of these nations. Students are becoming aware of how and why some nations develop economically more quickly than others.

In **Math**, the students are currently working on the unit, “*Bits and Pieces III*”. This unit focuses on decimals and percents. We are working through real-life applications of these concepts - computing store discounts, sales tax and tips at restaurants. By the end of the unit, your child should be able to calculate the tip when you go out for the dinner! Don’t forget that green practice sheets are assigned every Friday and due the following Friday. They count as a double daily grade!! Parents can sign the practice sheet for 5 bonus points!

This nine-week unit of study in **Language Arts** focuses on decision-making, analyzing, and classifying details. The Lone-Star selection, *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, will serve as an engaging focus for our students as we delve into a study of cooperation among diverse groups. Characters will be analyzed through their views on environmental, social, and cultural issues. Characterization will also be a focus of study through the novel *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg. As part of these novel studies, students will work to understand how the characters’ relationships are strengthened through both their common bonds and their diversity. In addition to *Seedfolks*, **PACE** students will explore fantasy by reading J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*.

6th Grade Sea Otters



The Sea Otter **Social Studies** classes are journeying through Latin America and Africa in the unit, "*Cultures in Transition*". Students will be studying historical factors and demographic data that have impacted these developing world regions. The unit will culminate with a study of an individual country from one of the two regions.

The Sea Otters are having a whale of a time in **Science** class. They are busy graphing the migratory routes of humpbacks as well as charting the topography of the ocean floor. Ask your favorite sixth grade oceanographer the difference between a mysticete and an odontocete.

The fourth six-week unit of study in **Language Arts** focuses on decision-making, analyzing, and classifying details. A Lone-Star selection, *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, will be studied using a read-aloud method. The characters from the selected chapters will be analyzed through their views on environmental, social, and cultural issues. Additionally, a character study will be conducted using book clubs with different novels.

PACE will also be reading *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. As part of the novel studies, students will work to understand how the characters' relationships are strengthened through both their common bonds and their diversity.

In **Math**, we will be wrapping up "*Bits & Pieces III*" at the end of January. We will squeeze in a Geometry mini unit before we begin our first book of 7th grade pre-algebra, "*Variables and Patterns*". In this unit, we will explore three ways of representing a changing situation: in a narrative (story format), with data organized in a table, and in a coordinate graph. We will compare the three formats throughout the unit to determine the strengths and weaknesses of each. We will do a lot of work with identifying the independent variable vs. the dependent variable and placing them correctly in a table and coordinate graph. We will use a lot of mathematical judgment, describing an event from studying a graph, determining the proper scale to use in a coordinate graph, etc. We will wrap up the unit with some work in solving one-operation and two-operation equations with focus on keeping the equation balanced. We will also write equations from a given situation.



7th Grade Cougars, Jaguars and Tigers



Language Arts:

Seventh grade students are busily polishing many aspects of their writing in preparation for the TAKS state writing test in March. Our resident authors are studying the art of sentence fluency using “Smiley-face Tricks”. These techniques include: repetition for effect, expanded moments, hyphenated modifiers, catchy titles, circle endings, and the use of humor in their memoirs. Please take a look at your child’s STAR notebook for all of these writers’ secrets!

In literature students will meet O’Henry through his work of “After Twenty Years” and “A Retrieved Reformation”. They will study his craft of writing with irony, foreshadowing, vivid descriptions, surprise endings, and humor.

In late February students will be immersed in the study of mythology. They will study the elements of fiction, analyze characters’ viewpoints, and recognize mythological references.

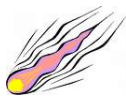
Texas History:

Texas History is working on the “*Republic to Reconstruction*” unit. It focuses on the events from independence and statehood through the Civil War and Reconstruction. We also learn that democracy is an evolving process that is both responsible and responsive to its citizens. Additionally, we’ll discuss that the cultural identity of Texas was shaped by its unique history.

College Education:

Right before the winter break the 7th graders finished the College Education workbooks that the counselors covered with the students. Parents should have received a short workbook that serves as a guide for you to use in conversation and follow up to what the students have been learning at school. Some students are already taking language classes that count towards their high school GPA. It’s not too early to start the continuing education conversation.

8th Grade Comets, Stars & Suns



Math 8 and Honors 8 Math:

The first Connected Math book we will be studying is “*Samples and Populations*”. Students will use the process of statistical investigation to explore problems. They will also use information from samples to draw conclusions about populations.

Honors Algebra I :

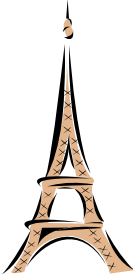
Algebra will start the new semester with Chapter 6: Systems of Equations and Inequalities. Students will learn how to solve systems by graphing, substitution, and elimination. They will also learn about special systems that have infinitely many solutions and no solutions. Finally, students will write and solve systems that apply to real-world problems.

Science 8:

With the start of the Spring semester, we began the 4th 6-weeks with Natural Resources and Simple Machines. The 5th 6-weeks will comprise Mineralogy & Petrology and Chemistry and the 6th 6-weeks will be a unit on Geology, geologic time, historical geology, earthquakes, and volcanoes and end the year with plate tectonics.

The MAP Science test will be taken in late January and TAKS science will be administered in late April. As always we encourage any student who feels they may need a little help on TAKS to participate in our tutorials sessions. Parent’s please stress the importance of good note taking and encourage the students to recognize that high school is upon them and that they must be an advocate for themselves when they have any questions.

7th & 8th Grade French, by Patti Harrington



Oui Speak French!

French 7:

Our megaspore for the second semester continues with family-related topics. Future agendas will include leisure-time activities, vacation vocabulary, clothing, and typical café foods. Don't expect them to be able to order everything on a French menu for you, but have them teach you the correct way to say *Bon appétit!*

French 8:

Fait accompli – or almost. Your son or daughter is almost finished reading a 56 page novelette completely in French. Ask them about Fama. Is Fama a person or a thing? Where would you find a Fama?

Second semester's megaspore revolves around the house and all things related. We'll learn the rooms of the house, their contents, and their locations. What chores need to be done, where, by whom, and how often? We'll learn what French meals and food are like and how to order in a restaurant. and of course, how to make *crêpes* and *clafouti*. *Miam miam!*

Library Resources by Shana Nowlin

Renner Research



As we begin a new semester, students may find themselves busy in the library only to realize that their research may not be finished by closing time! If you find yourself in a similar situation, never fear, PISD online resources are here!

Use the following instructions to access the research tools available through the PISD library website:

1. Go to renner.mypisd.net to access your research desktop.
2. Sign in using your child's user name and password.
3. Find the box entitled "Quick Links".
4. Inside the Quick Links Box, Click on the link entitled "Library Resources".
5. Alternatively, you can use the following URL: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/library.html>.
6. Choose Renner from the list of schools under "Secondary Campus Library Sites".

Data-bases	Fast Facts	Newspaper & Magazine	History & Geography	Texas Resources	Science & Technology
Encyclopedias	World Atlas	Access World News	ABC-CLIO Social Studies Databases	Archive of Texas History	Science Reference Center
Current Events & Hot Topics	Culture-Grams	MAS Ultra – School Edition	Culture-Grams	Texas Almanac	Science Source Collection
Biography Resources	Information Please Almanac	News-Bank	America's Historical Newspapers	Ebsco – Texas Reference Center	Student Research Center
Literature and Books	World Almanac	Ebsco – Student Research Center	History Reference Center	Handbook of Texas Online	netTrekker
Health Resources	U.S. Census Bureau	Facts on File – World News Digest	Gale-Virtual Reference Library	Texas Beyond History	
Spanish Resources	Merriam-Webster's Word Central Dictionary		netTrekker AP Images	The Portal to Texas History	

Some resources will require a login and password:

Login: planoisd

Password: library

Other available resources include online magazine and newspaper articles, multimedia resources, current events, and search engines.

This is also available on the back cover of the student agendas!

Happy Researching!

Shana Nowlin, Librarian



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