



RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVI, Issue 3

November 2009

Fall 2009 Exam Schedule

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
Chairman :
Allison Choucair

Distribution
Coordinator :
Justina Cox

Tuesday, Dec. 15th

(EXAMS 2nd and 8th)

1st 8:30 - 8:50
2nd Exam **8:55 - 10:25**
4th 10:30 - 11:15
A lunch 10:45 - 11:15
5th 11:20 - 12:50
B lunch 11:20 - 11:50
C lunch 11:50 - 12:20
D lunch 12:20 - 12:50
6th 12:55 - 1:15
7th 1:20 - 1:55
8th Exam **2:00 - 3:30**

Wednesday, Dec. 16th

(EXAMS 4th and 7th)

1st 8:30 - 9:30
4th Exam **9:35 - 11:05**
A lunch 10:35 - 11:05
5th 11:10 - 12:40
B lunch 11:10 - 11:40
C lunch 11:40 - 12:10
D lunch 12:10 - 12:40
6th 12:45 - 1:15
7th Exam **1:20 - 2:50**
8th 2:55 - 3:30

Thursday, Dec. 17th

(EXAMS 1st and 6th)

1st Exam **8:30 - 10:00**
2nd 10:05 - 10:35
4th 10:40 - 11:30
A lunch 11:00 - 11:30
5th 11:30 - 1:00
B lunch 11:30 - 12:00
C lunch 12:00 - 12:30
D lunch 12:30 - 1:00
6th Exam **1:05 - 2:35**
7th 2:40 - 3:30

Friday, Dec. 18th

(5th per. EXAM — during 1st)

5th Exam **8:30 - 10:00**
2nd 10:05 - 10:35
4th 10:40 - 11:10
A lunch 10:40 - 11:10
5th 11:15 - 12:40
B lunch 11:10 - 11:40
C lunch 11:40 - 12:10
D lunch 12:10 - 12:40
Dismissal 12:40

November 2009 - January 2010 Calendar

November

- 13 Report Cards
- 14 Speech Tournament - Shepton HS
- 16-17 Kuder Career Planning System - 8th Grade History Classes
- 21 Choir Concert - Custer Road United Methodist Church -
7th & 8th Grade Boys
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Break, Student Holiday
- 30 Adopt-a-Platoon Care Package Items Due



December

- 2 Science Fair Projects Due
- 2-3 Science Fair Judging
- 4 Science Fair Projects Open for Public Viewing
- 7-11 National Inclusive Schools Week
- 11 Holiday Staff Luncheon
- 14 PTA Holiday Board Luncheon, 10:30am
- 14 Exam Review Day
- 15-18 Final Exams
- 17 Environmental Club Meeting, 3:30-5pm, Mrs. Gunnels' Classroom
- 18 Teacher Treats
- Early Release, 12:40pm
- 19 Teacher Work Day
- 21 Report Cards
- 21-Jan 4 Winter Break, Student Holiday



January

- 4 Teacher Work Day
- 5 Classes Resume
- 11 PTA Board Meeting, 9:15am
- 18 Martin Luther King Holiday

November Outreach - Adopt-a-Platoon Renner Supports our Troops



***Please Help Send a Special Holiday Cheer
to the men and women of the armed forces.***

Through Adopt-a-Platoon, Renner will be sending care packages to our troops stationed in Afghanistan. Conditions in Afghanistan are hard, and we need to help our troops keep up morale and stay healthy.

Your donations will help show our troops how much we care about them as well as provide them with a few comforts from home.

Donations can be dropped off in the collection bins near the office until November 30th (so that our gifts can arrive in time for the holiday!)

Items the troops would love to receive are:

FOOD PRODUCTS: Microwave popcorn, individually wrapped candy & bags of candy (M&M, Butterfinger, Gummi Bears, Baby Ruth, Kit Kat, Skittles), beef jerky, powdered drink mixes, fruit snacks & roll-ups, gum, hard candy, PB&J, tuna snack packs, slim jims, Pringles chips and dip, Little Debbie snacks, noodle cups, American snacks that can travel, gourmet flavored instant coffee, single serve sugar/creamer, cookies, nuts, pop tarts, small cans of fruit

ENTERTAINMENT/ MISC: Xbox 360 & Wii games (new or used), music & movies, batteries, blank CD's & DVD's, board games, stationery, pens, books, hand-held games, magazines (ESPN, People, fitness, auto), books (thrillers, spy, sci-fi), crossword and word search, travel games, AT&T prepaid calling cards, assortment of cards (birthday, holiday, etc. that they can send home to family), recorded TV shows (CSI, Criminal Minds, Sports), sunglasses, watches, calendars, clocks, locks with keys

TOILETRIES: toothpaste, soaps, toothbrushes, travel size shampoo & conditioners, deodorants, wet wipes, hair gel, hand sanitizers, sun block, floss, lotion, shaving razors, foot creams, Tylenol, allergy (OTC) medicines, Q-tips, lip balm with SPF, nail clippers, feminine products, air freshener, fly swatters, body powder

COLD WEATHER NEEDS: hand and foot warmers, black knitted hats, gloves, black boot socks

Letters and cards of support are always appreciated as well!

Any questions? Please contact Lori Baum at outreach@rennerpta.org.



The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Neosporin vs. Elbow Grease

“Even if practice doesn’t make you perfect,
it will at least make you better.”

As a kid you learn very early that your parents sometimes have different ways of handling problems. Depending on the situation or problem, you may seek out one parent or the other based on how you are hoping they will respond. My parents’ view on fixing a problem could be summarized as which ointment you needed. Mom chose Neosporin and Dad chose Elbow Grease. To this day I think my mom truly believes that Neosporin is the cure to all that ails society. Small cut on your arm, Neosporin is the answer. Got the flu, grab the Neosporin. Bad grade on a test or didn’t make the team, you can fix it with some ointment. My Dad on the other hand subscribed to the theory that there is no problem that can’t be fixed without a little elbow grease. You got a bad grade on a test, need to work harder. Didn’t make the team, work hard and you’ll make it next time. Got the flu, you should have spent more time washing your hands. While my examples may have been stretched some, I do think there is some value in both approaches.

Though Neosporin or elbow grease didn’t cure all my problems, the sympathetic approach I got from one parent, coupled with some good advice about the value of hard work, helped me address problems and has stayed with me all these years. I see even today that many of the situations I face at work can be fixed, to some degree, with spending a little more time and attention on the issue at hand. So are hard work, persistence, and a little extra practice the answer?

Malcolm Gladwell, author of the book Outliers, thinks that is one of the key elements for people who have achieved great success. In the book, Gladwell looked at the success that people like Bill Gates and Mozart achieved and tried to find what experiences they had in common. One of his explanations for their unbelievable success was what he called “The 10,000 Hour Rule”. He used a research study that said the magic number for a person to have true expertise was 10,000 hours of practice. Bill Gates was fortunate enough to attend an elementary school and the University of Michigan where he gained early experience in working with computers and you guessed it, was able get

Continued on page 5

The Principal's Column, continued

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal



10,000 hours of practice in computer programming. He was able to apply this practice at just the right time in his work career and became the billionaire we know today. Mozart didn't compose his first masterpiece until after he had been composing for 10 years, approximately 10,000 hours of practice. These individuals certainly had other talents and opportunities, but the common factor was the number of hours of practice they had prior to becoming successful. So what is the application for our kids?

While I wouldn't recommend sitting your kid in front of a computer, piano, or basketball goal and telling them they can't move until they've completed 10,000 hours of quality practice, I do think there is a real world application to these examples. As parents do we look at our child struggling in math or reading in the same light? If 10,000 hours helped the most successful people develop their expertise, wouldn't the same be true for our kids? A couple of years ago, we had a student that I'm sure attended every tutorial offered from 6th grade until she left to go to Shepton. Finally in 8th grade, I went and pulled her grades and saw that she was a straight A student in all honors classes. I asked her one morning in the spring semester of her 8th grade year why she was so consistent in attending tutorials when all her grades were near 100%. In her own words, she replied that her grades were that high because she took advantage of every opportunity for practice with her teachers. She knew if she did her homework and came to tutorials for extra help or that one extra piece of information before a test, she was prepared for success. Wouldn't it be great if all of our students applied this concept to their academic life? No one could argue that with 10,000 hours of practice in math, science, art, or a foreign language that we wouldn't improve. Talk with your child about the areas in school that are most difficult for them academically, apply the rule about the importance of practice and hard work, and then see if their performance in that subject doesn't improve. As my Dad would say, "apply a little elbow grease". If that doesn't work, Neosporin is always an effective plan B.

I hope everyone gets to spend some great family time in the upcoming months and that you can enjoy spending quality time with your kids.

Bill McLaughlin, Principal



The President's Column

By **Carolyn Keeter**, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President

We have now completed the second six weeks of school and the Thanksgiving holiday will be here in a few weeks. At this time of year, I hope each one of us slows down and realizes how thankful we should be to live in an area that has so much and have a school with so much to offer each student. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that I am so thankful for in making my job easy. There are many people who do their part every week to make Renner an awesome place for our kids and our teachers, and I am truly grateful for your willingness to help.

The Renner Family Directory looks fantastic due to the hard work of **Christine Platt**. Christine and her volunteers worked tirelessly to get a high quality directory to each PTA family and also spent several days getting them all distributed. Thank you to **Kathy Grane** for the advertisements that were included in the directory. These sponsors helped support the PTA with a donation to the directory.

Ruth Kaminski and **Jenny Wood** coordinated the first two Principal's Coffees. They were both extremely well attended with great food and lots of information to keep all parents plugged into Renner.

A big thank you to **Holly Castora** for a well-attended and very fun school social. Everyone enjoyed the music, inflatables and larger-than-life Rock Band. Mark your calendars for the spring social on **April 9th**.

Teacher Treats at the end of the first and second six weeks were very delicious days for the staff at Renner. Thank you **Jenny Craig** and **Becky Tanoury** for making our staff feel loved and well fed.

The Renner Community Outreach drive in October to benefit The Family Place was extremely successful. **Lori Baum** did a great job promoting this program to the students of Renner and the donations were abundant. During the month of November, Renner students will participate in the Adopt-a-Platoon program. Items will be sent to an entire platoon for the holidays. For more details see Lori's article on page 3.

Teacher Appreciation Coordinator, **Mary Kay Drury**, will host a delicious winter luncheon just before break for all teachers and staff. If you would like to help, contact her at appreciation@rennerpta.org. Every teacher and staff member at Renner receives a birthday cake on their

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The President's Column, continued

By Carolyn Keeter, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President

special day. If you are interested in baking for a teacher, contact **Jacque Delkus** at birthdays@rennerpta.org. Another way that we show the Renner teachers and staff how "thankful" we are for them is by hosting a luncheon for each individual team at Renner. These luncheons give the team an opportunity to sit down for a few precious minutes and eat a homemade meal together. The team luncheons will began this month and will continue until each team has had their luncheon. Thank you to the Team Luncheon Coordinators, **Susie Learmont** - 8th grade, **Michelle Adams** - 7th grade and **Lori Gropper** - 6th grade, who have started planning and hosting these luncheons. If you would like to help, please contact them at luncheon8@rennerpta.org, luncheon7@rennerpta.org, or luncheon6@rennerpta.org.

Jill Blackwell did an outstanding job with the Reflections contest. There were many outstanding entries from our students. Thank you for a job well done.

Thank you to **Allison Choucair** and **Justina Cox** who publish and distribute this Renner Round-Up newsletter each six weeks to all Renner families, teachers and staff. We hope you find the newsletter informative about all that is happening at Renner. You can also find lots of timely information on the Renner website at www.rennerpta.org which **Frances Fass**, our webmaster, keeps updated. Thank you, Frances, for keeping the website up to date.

Thank you to **Michelle Chaiken**, **Terri Perkins** and **Sandy Black**, who schedule volunteers each month to help out with the school store, the office, and in the library. They are scheduling volunteers for the second half of the year, so if you would like to help out, please contact them at storeschedule@rennerpta.org, office@rennerpta.org, or library@rennerpta.org.

Thank you again for supporting the Renner PTA. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Carolyn Keeter
Renner PTA President
president@rennerpta.org



Order Your 2010 Renner Yearbook Now!

Please note **NEW** Yearbook Ordering Procedures!

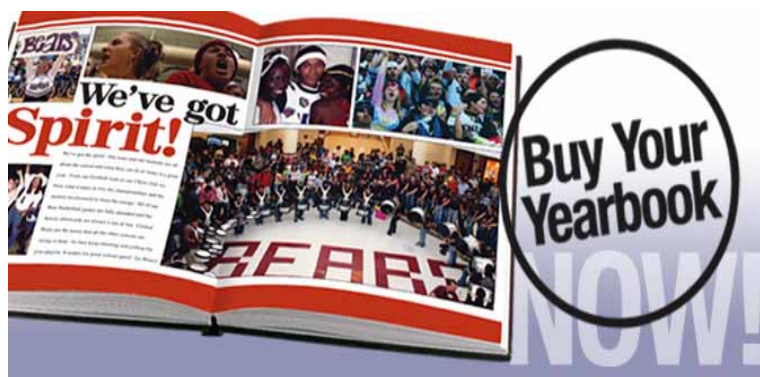
Families will no longer receive order forms and notices from Josten's in the US mail.

To order a 2010 Renner MS Yearbook, go to
www.jostensyearbooks.com

Find Renner Middle School, Plano, Texas.

Create your Login and
order your yearbook with a credit card.

If you have questions, or
if you must purchase your yearbook with cash,
please contact Cheryl Lange at
cheryl.lange@pisd.edu or (469) 752-5869.



Yearbook Pictures Needed!



Get your pictures in the yearbook! The Yearbook Advisor invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school events or you and your friends just having fun at a school event, we'd like to see them. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have. The color section of the yearbook must be completed by December, so pictures submitted this fall have a better chance of being accepted.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.jostens.com>
- Enter UserID: 400006491 & Password: renner10 and submit.
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details".

It's that easy! Submit your photos today!
The last day to submit photos is March 1, 2010.



Thank you, and enjoy the school year!

Cheryl Lange, Yearbook Adviser and Teacher

Ms. Lange will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. It is not guaranteed that all submissions can be used in the book.



Renner Science Fair 2009



The Renner Science Fair is quickly approaching. The Science Fair will take place on December 2-3, 2009 in the Renner Library. The PTA and the Science Department are excited about this upcoming event and are very proud of our budding young scientists who have chosen to participate.

If you are interested in helping with this event, there are opportunities available. Set-up of the library will take place Tuesday afternoon, December 1st, after school for about an hour. On Wednesday morning, December 2nd, the students will be bringing their finished projects to the library for display and judging. We will need some volunteers to help the students find their pre-determined spot for display and assist them with setting up their project if needed (7:20-8:40am). If you would like to volunteer for set-up on Tuesday afternoon or organizing on Wednesday morning, please contact janrichard@verizon.net.

We are also asking for donations of refreshments for our staff members who have kindly volunteered their time to be our judges this year. If you would like to help with refreshment donation, please contact Janet Vincze at jv@janetvincze.com.

Students who are participating in the Science Fair will be asked to collect their projects from the library after school on Friday, December 4th.

Renner Spirit Wear makes a Great Gift!

Need a gift idea for a grandparent who has everything? A little brother or sister? Renner spirit wear makes a great holiday gift. We have t-shirts and sweatshirts available in several different styles and sizes. Stop by the Renner School Store any day during lunch (11am-1pm) to purchase your Mustangs spirit wear. All spirit wear prices already include sales tax.



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

Contact Kim Brown at shirts@rennerpta.org if you have any questions.

Organic Recycling at Renner



Students new to Renner - and some familiar faces as well - may not be aware of the organic recycling program in the Renner lunch room. Here are some things to know about the bright yellow compost bins found next to the trash bins in the cafeteria:

1. These bins are picked up by the City of Plano at no cost to PISD. Participating in Organic Recycling saves the school money.
2. As students clean up after lunch each day, they should put their left-over food, paper sacks, pizza boxes, and the red and white cardboard cafeteria trays into the yellow compost bins. Bottles and cans should be sorted into the appropriate recycle bins, and all other items should be placed in the black trash cans.
3. Items students commonly dump into the yellow bins which ***should not be there*** include: plastic silverware, plastic bags, lids from bottles, Styrofoam items and wrappers from chips or cookies. The waste from these yellow bins goes directly to the City of Plano for their compost program. It helps to think about the fact that items in this bin need to be able to enrich the soil by decomposing naturally.

Renner did a good job with this program last year and has earned the privilege of participating in this program again this year (while many schools were told their organic recycling bins would no longer be collected.) Let's encourage our students to save the school money and enrich our Texas soil by taking just a few moments at the end of lunch to carefully sort their trash, bottles, and organics into the correct bins.

Thanks for your support!

Environmental Club News...

The Environmental Club is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The Club meets monthly on Thursdays, immediately after school from 3:30 to 5:00pm in Ms. Gunnels' room #813. The remaining meetings will be held on:

Thursday, December 17th
Thursday, January 21st
Thursday, February 18th
Thursday, April 15th
Thursday, May 20th

For more information please contact Terri Perkins at (972) 378-1392 or terri_west@urscorp.com.

National Inclusive Schools Week December 7-11, 2009

The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be held **December 7-11, 2009**. Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event that highlights the accomplishments of families, schools, and communities that have dedicated time, labor, and resources to promoting inclusive education for all children. Plano ISD, the Plano Council of PTAs SAGE committee, and Renner Middle School are once again supporting this initiative.

Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

For more information about the Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week, please visit www.inclusiveschools.org or email inclusiveschools@edc.org. There you can sign up for Inclusive Schools Network News for regular updates, news, and information related to building schools and communities that are welcoming of all children and youth.



Fall PTA Programs at Renner...

From Bully to Bullied

On Tuesday September 22nd, the Renner PTA sponsored the bullying program "From Bully to Bullied" for all 7th and 8th graders. Billy Simms, a corporate consultant and bullying expert, spoke to all students about different types of bullying and how it can affect all of us.

Mr Simms gave a lively and energetic presentation using language and examples that all students could relate to. He emphasized the effect of new technology including MySpace, Facebook, and cell phones as being another way to bully and become a victim of bullying. He gave real life examples of how bullying can effect all of us. He talked about the essential role of the bystander and ways they can deal with a friend or student that is a victim. The presenter, who was a victim of bullying and a bully himself, was able to share his feelings of regret for having inflicted the pain he felt as a victim on another child. He also talked about how bullying can take over your life.

Students walked away from the program with a renewed appreciation for others and a greater sensitivity to their feelings.

The Truth of Lies

On Tuesday October 6th, all students attended a PTA sponsored program "The Truth of Lies". The program, produced by Motivational Productions, incorporates box office movies, top-of-the-charts music videos, and interviews with real teens facing real problems and concerns. The show inspires students to make good decisions resulting in positive changes in their lives and their campus.

This presentation was designed to teach students to accept who they are and not let others determine their self-worth. They identified the lies teens believe –

- All advice is good advice
- I have to look perfect
- I must have everyone's approval
- Life should be fair and easy
- If I fail I'm a loser
- Lying is better than telling the truth
- It's easier to avoid problems than face them.

The students learned that these lies can cause a person to resort to extreme actions that could have devastating consequences in their life.

These programs were sponsored by the Renner PTA.



Kick off your Holiday Shopping with Savings and Benefits for Renner!

When you shop at OneCause.com, you will contribute up to 20% of every eligible purchase to Renner Middle School at no extra cost to you! Go to www.onecause.com and type in Renner Middle School under "Find a Cause or School" and follow the easy instructions to get started. Simply shop online at hundreds of well-known merchants, save money with valuable Coupons & Deals and earn contributions to support Renner PTA programs on every eligible purchase.

Start your online shopping at OneCause now!



Other fantastic ways to financially support the Renner PTA at no additional cost to you:

Tom Thumb

Tom Thumb's Good Neighbor program links your reward card to Renner Middle School. Stop by their Customer Service desk and pick up a registration form or they are also available in the front office at Renner. Renner's number is 6266.

Target

Apply for a Target Visa card and designate Renner Middle School to receive the donation credit. To get a card, or if you already have a card, stop by their customer service counter and add Renner's number - 100524.

Renner has a number of programs provided by our PTA. By joining together to support our Community Partners, each of us can raise funds for Renner on our shopping trips. These rebated dollars help pay for carpool police officers, agendas for students, the newsletter, parent programs and numerous other valuable PTA programs. Let's go shopping with our Community Partners!

Please contact Sylvia Cosby at partnerships@rennerpta.org or (972) 378-5712 if you have any questions.

BOX TOPS For Education

Please remember to clip Box Tops from hundreds of participating General Mills products. Box Tops are worth 10¢ each when Renner redeems them for cash. If each student sent in 10 box tops, then we would earn over \$1,000. Students may drop the box tops off in the box outside the front office or turn them into Mrs. Leon in Room 404.

Barnes & Noble and Box Tops have teamed up to make it easy to earn cash for your school. Earn up to 6% of all qualified purchases by simply logging on to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/readingroom/default.aspx> and then shopping at Barnes & Noble.

Thanks in advance for your support!



My Coke Rewards Another way to support Renner... without selling anything!!

My Coke Rewards for Schools is a way for parents, friends, and others in the community to support local K-12 schools by donating My Coke Rewards points which can be earned from hundreds of participating Coca-Cola products. Schools can turn donated points into a variety of rewards that support students.

Collecting Points

My Coke Rewards members donate points from codes found on participating Coca-Cola products — choosing from a variety of beverages that fit your tastes and needs.

- Just log onto - <http://www.mycokerewards.com/home.do>
- REGISTER
- ENTER CODE FROM YOUR COKE PRODUCT- it is on the inside of the boxes from 12 or 24 packs.
- Donate points to Renner.
- If Renner is still marked as pending, please save your points and wait to donate when Renner is an active account.

Getting Rewarded

My Coke Rewards for Schools Account Managers Kristy Leon and Bill McLaughlin choose the rewards that are best for Renner. They can also create a wish list of all the available resources their school needs. Once enough points are collected, Renner can redeem its rewards!

STUDENT DIRECTORIES Have Been Distributed!

The 2009 - 2010 Renner PTA Student Directory has been printed and distributed to the students. If you are a PTA member, you should have received your directory by now. Contact Christine Platt at directory@rennerpta.org if you have not received one.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the people who helped with the preparation and distribution of this year's directory. This directory had so many people help from registration to proofreading and distribution.

THANK YOU --

Michelle Adams, Marla Newman, Julie Myers, Kathy Grane, Allison Choucair, Mimi Forbes, Anna Wageman, Masae Rinkliff, Sam Clement, Lisa Chung, and Erin Gordon for helping sort and proof.

Mistakes do happen. If you need a correction to your information or perhaps you would like to be added to the directory, please contact directory@rennerpta.org and we will send a correction out in the Mustang Messenger and in the next Renner Round Up.

In addition, Kathy Grane sold our sponsor advertisements (see page 19 and the last section of the directory!) and Jan Poston created the cover of the directory. Thank you for all your time and effort.

We do have a few directories remaining. If you would like to join the PTA and receive a directory, contact Julie Myers at membership@rennerpta.org.

The logo consists of the letters 'PTA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters have a vertical-line texture and a slight 3D effect with a darker blue shadow on the right side.

Many thanks to our 2009-2010
Renner Directory Advertisers!!

Please take the time to read through the list...

**You can find more specific information about their
business in our 09-10 Directory Sponsor section...**

Take a look! Make sure and tell them YOU are a Renner Family!

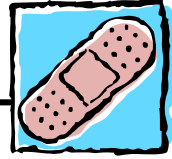
Back Cover: ROYAL EXPRESS CAR WASH (The Perkins Family)

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

Nurse's Notes - by Judith Grace



Basic First Aid - Common Sense and an Important Life Skill

By middle school age, students are spending more and more of their time outside of the home. They should be prepared to handle the little aches and pains of life as well as know what to do in a serious emergency. We often think of these skills as something they have been taught in elementary school. However, as older students now, their perspective on managing minor injuries and emergencies has changed. There is an expectation that they would know what to do if they got a nosebleed, a paper cut, a bruise or a knee scrape. We might have practiced with them at age six how to call 911, but have you discussed it with them since?

It is very hard to sit young teens down and try to get them to listen and learn about these things at home, But, if you think it's hard now, just wait a couple of years. My favorite place to engage kids about any subject is in the car. You can bring up a short topic – like what to do if you have a nosebleed. Ask what they already know. Reinforce the right steps. Advise them when they need adult help.

Some examples of things that kids can handle on their own are found on the nurse's page of mypisd.net. Students and parents have access to this through the student account for [mypisd](http://mypisd.net). Click on [Notes from the Nurse](#), then the [Mustang Medical Center Self Care Station](#). Kids who access mypisd.net do not always check the Nurse's section, but you can look at these together and create an opportunity for learning and discussion. Some of the topics there include: cuts and scrapes, blisters, nosebleeds, and a lost tooth.

As we give students more responsibility, we need to be sure that they know how to handle simple situations. Just like we teach kids how to use the microwave or boil water as early steps in learning to cook, we need to teach our children the small steps in managing the physical and medical problems of life too.

Welcome to the Renner Library!

Renner Library – Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:15am – 4:00pm

Below are the answers to several frequently asked questions:

- **How many books are students allowed to check out?**
6th Grade – 3 books at one time
7th & 8th Grade – 5 books at one time
- **How long are students allowed to keep books?**
Books are checked out for two weeks.
- **When are students allowed to visit the library?**
Students are allowed to visit the library before school, after school, during advisory, and any time during the day with a pass signed by their teacher.
- **What is the fee for a late book?**
Students are charged 10¢ per day for each late book.
- **Are computers available for student use in the library?**
Yes, students may use the computers after signing in at the circulation desk.
- **Is a copy machine available for student use? How much does it cost?**
Yes, students may use the copy machine in the library.
The cost is 10¢ per page.

Feel free to contact us with any additional questions!

Shana Nowlin, Librarian: (469) 752-5827
Sam Scott, Library Assistant: (469) 752-5824





Counselor Notes...

7th Grade COLLEGE ED:

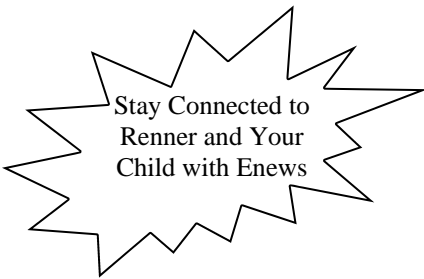
The Renner Counseling Department is conducting five sessions of College Awareness through the 7th grade Texas History classes. College Ed sessions began October 30th and are designed to introduce students to opportunities for continuing education after high school graduation. Students will be working on exercises from a College Ed workbook and will bring home information for parents to review as well.

Information presented includes goal setting, types of continuing education available, financial obligations and financial aid opportunities, types of degrees to pursue, and basic information on some schools in Texas and other states. We encourage parents to discuss the topics presented with their child and encourage active participation in the program.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact Brad Allcorn, 7th Grade Counselor, at (469) 752-5815 or james.allcorn@pisd.edu.

Dates for Counselor Visits:

October 30th
November 5th
November 24th
December 11th
March 12th



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Counselor Notes continued...

8th Grade KUDER CAREER PLANNING:

On November 16th and November 17th, all 8th graders will participate in the internet-based Kuder Career Planning System (KCPS) during their history class. The KCPS is designed to help your student discover their career interests, skills, and work values. The results are related to occupational information and provide an electronic portfolio that may be accessed online at any time.

Please encourage your child to show you their report on the internet and review the results together. Direct links to the job opportunities, post-secondary options, financial aid information and additional career development resources are available for students and parents.

8th Grade ACADEMIC CONFERENCES:

Academic conferences will be scheduled to begin in February. Group sessions will be scheduled to last approximately one and one half 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 at the meeting is appreciated.

Parents will receive a letter by mail with their conference date, time and room number. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carol Frank, 8th Grade Counselor at (469) 752-5816 or carol.frank@pisd.edu.

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National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

Christa Pezoulas and Leslie Grant, Sponsors

Remaining NJHS Meetings – Renner Middle School:

November 10 – Cafeteria 3:40pm, Thanksgiving cards

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 - Cafeteria 6:30pm, NJHS Induction

Eligibility Information

In the month of September, all eligible eighth grade students will receive invitations to become candidates for membership in Renner's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Eligible students must have a 3.8 grade point average for the 7th grade year. The final grade on the 7th grade report cards will be used to determine the students' averages.

Membership Induction

Membership induction for N.J.H.S. will occur on May 11, 2010. The students will not be inducted until after they have volunteered 12 hours of service to the school and community and have spent the majority of the school year demonstrating the four ideals of N.J.H.S. which include excellent scholarship, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Selection Procedure

Renner's selection procedure for National Junior Honor Society is based on standards provided by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the national organization governing N.J.H.S.

1. In September, eighth grade students who had a 3.8 grade point average for 7th grade were considered potential candidates for N.J.H.S. The final grade on the report cards from the 7th grade was used to determine the students' averages.

2. Students who meet the academic criterion and who display behavior which is consistent with the standards of leadership, character, and citizenship (all E's and S's in 8th grade) will be invited to become candidates for N.J.H.S. The candidates are expected to take an active part

in club activities, be a role model for students at Renner, maintain exceptional student status, and show academic and personal integrity in and out of the classroom.

3. Students will remain candidates for most of the school year. If they are serious about becoming a member, they will spend the year participating in activities and service projects with the organization. N.J.H.S. candidates are required to perform at least 12 hours (6 school and 6 community hours) of service by Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

4. In March, students will turn in completed service hours and will be re-evaluated as potential members. Students must maintain a 3.8 GPA in all classes with Honors and PACE classes being weighted. The names of the students who have successfully met the standards and who have completed their service hours will be submitted to the faculty for approval. The faculty will consider the candidates in terms of the four ideals of N.J.H.S. and will submit evaluations of the students being considered.

5. A five member Faculty Council will meet to review the candidates for membership. N.J.H.S. sponsors will not serve on this council. The Council will consider the comments and concerns from the faculty regarding any candidate's character, leadership, scholarship, or service. After carefully reviewing the evaluations, the Faculty Council will select the candidates who will be inducted as members in May.

6. The procedure for determining loss of eligibility shall be decided by the Faculty Council. Students who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection will lose their eligibility immediately. Types of behavior that may jeopardize eligibility include excessive tardies, in or out-of-school suspension, cheating on any class work including quizzes and tests, poor attitude, inappropriate behavior, and lack of respect for others.

7. Students will be notified of their final selection or non-selection prior to the induction ceremony in May. As stated earlier, students will be formally inducted as National Junior Honor Society members after completing 12 service hours of volunteer work and maintaining excellent scholarship, character, leadership, and citizenship. National Junior Honor Society is not a right guaranteed to all students; it is an honor granted by the faculty to students who work hard to uphold the N.J.H.S. ideals.

The Ideals of National Honor Society

Scholarship: Students must maintain a 3.8 GPA or higher in all classes to remain eligible for membership in N.J.H.S.

Leadership: National Junior Honor Society students are leaders both in and out of the classroom. N.J.H.S. candidates should demonstrate qualities of leadership on a daily basis by following school rules and policies, and by setting an example for other Renner students with their actions. Candidates also have opportunities to demonstrate leadership by serving as a N.J.H.S. officer and by volunteering to organize service activities for the organization.

Service: National Junior Honor Society candidates are required to perform 12 hours of volunteer service in order to remain eligible for membership. All service hours should be recorded on a form available from an adviser. Service hours must be verified with the signature of an adult who will vouch for participation. Service hours may be earned for any voluntary service in the school or the community with a few exceptions. The following may not be counted as service hours for National Junior Honor Society:

- Fundraising activities for organizations other than N.J.H.S. (example – Working at a car wash to raise money for the band is not considered school or community service.)
- Activities required for another class or organization. (Example: If a student is required to complete an activity for student council, PALS, cheerleading, or any other organization, this is not considered voluntary community service.)
- Chores or extra work at home. (Example: Babysitting for free for the student's little sister or next door neighbor's child is not community service; mowing the lawn at home without getting paid, although it is a good deed, is not community service.)
- Tutoring classmates on an individual basis. (Example: Helping a friend out in science is not community service, but tutoring in school or in a N.J.H.S. sponsored tutorial program is considered community service.)
- If the student is in doubt about whether an activity will count toward service hours, please ask one of the N.J.H.S. sponsors.

Character: The Renner Middle School faculty considers character to be an extremely important factor in selecting students for National Junior Honor Society. During the year, the students should make every effort to demonstrate character traits that let those around them know that they are worthy of admission to an honor society. National Junior Honor Society candidates should strive to embody traits such as honesty, tolerance, integrity, school spirit, success within the rules, respect for others and perseverance. Students who violate the student code of conduct or who are involved in an incident of cheating will be denied membership by the Faculty Council.

6th Grade Dolphins



Our second six weeks in the Dolphin hall finds the **Language Arts** students quite comfortable with our routines and procedures. We are continuing in our unit study “Communicating Personal Experiences”; ask your Dolphin about the authors we have studied (Sandra Cisneros, Gary Paulsen, and Gary Soto). We will soon begin our biography book reports, so if there is a particular historical person your child is interested in reading about, now is the time to begin that reading. Please keep the communication flowing with your child as to quizzes, tests, and upcoming projects. Their agenda should keep you abreast of all their required work. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

After leaving the wonderful world of art history, the Dolphin **PACE** students are journeying on to an exciting unit on The History of Mysteries!! We will be reading mysteries, and learning the elements and history of mystery writing. (You may want to dust off your old copy of Sherlock Holmes!)

The Dolphin super **scientists** are still working on the Human Body Systems unit. We learned the effects of exercise on our respiratory system through the lab, *Every Breath You Take*. Next, we will travel to the circulatory system. Soon we will be discussing the Longevity project to analyze how different choices and lifestyle factors change longevity. Some choices, like driving dangerously or taking illegal drugs, can drastically shorten a person’s longevity while exercising and eating healthy foods can lengthen someone’s life.

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

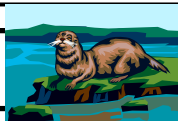
The Penguin students are on the lookout for kind actions and good citizenship. Students may recognize other students by writing about how someone else was helpful or kind and deposit it in the mail box outside of Mrs. Hees' room. The student's name who submits the yellow recognition slip is kept confidential, but the results help the teachers decide on various awards for the students. So far, the many recognition slips have been a heartwarming testament to the good attitudes and citizenship of the students on the Penguin team.

In **Social Studies** we are beginning our second unit, Cultural Borrowing. Our students will study ancient Greece, ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. They will learn the contributions of each of these times to the world plus how the contributions of each culture are still being used today.

Language Arts for the Penguin Team will focus on descriptive writing. The CAP (culminating assessment project) for this unit will be a descriptive paper in which students will use sensory language to paint pictures in their readers' minds. The novel we will read this unit is *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. Students will learn about the plight of Jeffery Lionel Magee, a lovable eleven-year-old runaway, while they soak up this wonderfully gifted author's use of description and figurative language. Because poetry is especially creative and descriptive, students will also be exposed to a variety of poems throughout this unit.

It's been an exciting six weeks in **Science**. Students have learned a great deal about the digestive system and are now moving on to the respiratory and circulatory systems. We continue to focus on the structure and function of our body systems. They are enjoying the labs and seem to be learning a lot from them. Most of the kids are remembering to observe safe laboratory procedures such as remembering to wear safety goggles.

6th Grade Sea Otters



In **Social Studies**, the sixth graders are journeying through European history. The students will be highlighting the accomplishments of Ancient Greece and Rome by creating puzzles and CD covers. The study of Europe will continue as students explore the Middle Ages and European Renaissance. The “Cultural Borrowing” unit will culminate with a paper that focuses on the many lasting contributions from each of these significant time periods.

The Sea Otter **Science** classes are beginning on the Respiratory and Circulatory Systems Unit. To conclude this exciting unit, the students will be doing a research project on “How Long is Your Longevity?”. This project will focus on healthy lifestyles and wise choices early in life.

In **Language Arts**, this six-week study will focus on descriptive writing using various techniques for the development of ideas, sensory images, beginnings, focus and voice, and figurative language such as simile, metaphor, and onomatopoeia. Using the novel *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli as well as other short stories and poems, students will be given the opportunity to analyze the elements of fiction. Through these reading and writing experiences, this unit will help students understand an author’s expressions and become more expressive writers.

The **PACE** language arts class will focus on the same skills, but the students will be reading mysteries from different time periods. They will compose their own mystery plays to perform for the class.

In all math classes we are finishing up “Bits & Pieces II,” the unit on operations with fractions. Next up is “Bits & Pieces III,” which is the unit on decimals and percents. In this book, we will add, subtract, multiply, and divide with decimals, and we will explore how to find percent of a number in the form of tax, tip, and discounts. Towards the end of the unit we will discover how to find what percent one number is of another. For example, what percent is \$10 of \$40? (answer: 25%)

By the time you read this edition of the Renner Round-Up, Mrs. Tompkins may have already had her baby since she is officially due November 5th. The long-term substitute is Ms. Kathryn Kubala, whom you can reach at Ms. Tompkins' regular phone number, (469) 752-5847, and regular email address, julie.tompkins@pisd.edu. Mrs. Tompkins expects to return to Renner to her original teaching position around the first part of February.

7th Grade Cougars, Jaguars and Tigers



Honors **Language Arts** classes are taking a trip across the United States with Brent Bishop while reading the novel *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman. Brent is a self-centered teenager who causes a tragedy to happen. As he travels to the four corners of the United States making whirligigs, he forgives himself when he sees the joy that the whirligigs bring to others. Thematic writing connections include guilt, belonging, forgiveness, and self-discovery.

How does reading literature affect me as a writer? What is the foundation of good writing? Why would I use different types of structure in my writing? How are good ideas developed? These are essential questions the Honors students will be contemplating as they respond to our novel. Included in the specific skill lessons are hooks (beginnings), endings, punctuation, organization, word choice, voice, figurative language, and sentence fluency.

What are the traits of good writing? How can reading influence me as a writer? How can I become an effective writer? These are a few of the essential questions our seventh graders in Regular **Language Arts** classes will be contemplating as we continue our first unit of study, "Becoming an Effective Writer". The lessons in this unit teach the key elements of effective communication through writing. Students will develop several narrative compositions. The elements of good writing such as theme, organization, hooks (beginnings), endings, figurative language, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and punctuation will be taught during the course of study. Several short stories and poems from our literature textbooks will be utilized to support the understanding of how authors sharpen their skills.

7th Grade Cougars, Jaguars and Tigers—continued



Students in 7th grade **Science** have been busy learning about animal and plant adaptations, atomic structure and the periodic table; students demonstrated their knowledge by creating a PowerPoint of one of the elements. In addition to the PowerPoint, the students worked with Microsoft Excel to generate data tables and graphs on the computer. Our next unit in Science will focus on the components of soil and compost and discuss the physical and chemical properties of all matter.

Honors **Science** students' independent research projects are underway, and students have completed their research plans and should begin their experimentation. The target date for completed experiments and data organized in charts and graphs is November 20th. Final projects are due on December 2nd.

7th grade **History** classes will be starting Unit 2: The Struggle for Independence. This unit will help students in understanding the events that led to Texas independence. The first part of the unit focuses on the colonization and relationships between Anglo settlers and Mexico. Each lesson is set to teach critical thinking skills in understanding that the Anglo settlers and Mexico were right and wrong in their actions. The CAP project for this unit will teach students to work in groups to develop a PowerPoint presentation that shows the differences in the social, economic, and political lives of Texans before and after the Revolution.

8th Grade Comets, Stars & Suns



English 8:

We have concluded our study of short story elements and we are beginning our study of selected works by Edgar Allen Poe.

Honors English 8:

We have concluded our novel study, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. We have begun our study of selected works by Edgar Allen Poe.

U.S. History:

Currently we have wrapped up our unit on Colonization and are moving on to the American Revolution. We will discuss the causes and the results of the actions of our founding fathers and how their bravery established our freedom. As we progress through the unit, we will be learning about the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States, the Branches of the Government, along with the Bill of Rights. All of these documents have played an important role in how we live our lives today. We are excited in sharing our nation's heritage with your young minds and look forward to another successful six weeks!

Math 8:

Students have just finished up the Connected Math Book called "Looking for Pythagoras". In this unit, students explored side lengths and areas of right triangles and squares. Their explorations lead to the discovery of one of the most important relationships in all of mathematics: the Pythagorean Theorem. In the next unit, students will be reviewing area, perimeter, surface area, volume, and scale changes of 2- and 3-dimensional figures.

Math 8 Honors:

The next Unit we will be covering in Honors Math is "Kaleidoscopes, Hubcaps, and Mirrors". The purpose of this unit is to stimulate and sharpen students' awareness of symmetry (looking at whether patterns have been rotated, reflected or translated), congruence, their connections, and to begin to develop their understanding of the underlying mathematics.

8th Grade Comets, Stars & Suns, continued



Honors Algebra I:

Algebra students have just begun Chapter 5 on Linear Functions. They will identify and graph linear functions, find x- and y-intercepts, find rates of change and slope, and study direct variation. In the second half of the chapter, students will write equations in slope-intercept form, point-slope form, and standard form, and will study the slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines. Finally, students will describe how changing the slope and y-intercept affects the graph of a linear function.

Mathcounts Club:

Mathcounts problems challenge and inspire students to further develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills in grades 6 through 8. Any number of students can be a part of the Mathcounts club at Renner. We will be participating in the monthly online challenges presented by Mathcounts. In February, the top eight students in the Renner Mathcounts club will be chosen to compete against other schools at the Chapter competition. The winners at the Chapter level proceed to the State and ultimately National competition. If your student is interested in joining Mathcounts, we practice every Wednesday from 7:45 AM to 8:25 AM, in room 915. If you have any questions, please send an email to Jennifer Mason at Jennifer.mason@pisd.edu.

Science 8:

Why is Iceland green and Greenland icy? What's in the air that we cannot see? How is energy filtered, reflected, and refracted on this unique planet we call Earth? 8th grade science students have been exploring these questions while studying the Earth's atmosphere, weather patterns, and climate by gathering weather data and researching sunspot cycles. The students then use Excel software to organize data and generate graphs to compare results of their research. Please check [mypisd](http://mypisd.com) for updates such as the science calendar and power points shown in class. They make a great review.

Science Honors 8:

The students have received their Research Plans and need to have all their science fair forms signed and completed before experimentation can begin. The next major due date is November 20th. They must have their experiment completed by this date, and they are to turn in the data tables and graphs. Please be aware that their projects are due December 2nd.



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