



RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVI, Issue 7

June 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 seven 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

Renner Registration & Schedule Pick-Up

**Mark your calendars now for
Registration and Schedule Pick-Up:**

Thursday, August 12th

6th grade: 9am - 12pm

7th grade: 1 - 4pm

Friday, August 13th

8th grade: 9am - 12pm

**Students NEW to PISD in
grades 6, 7, & 8:
1 - 4pm**

Emergency cards must be turned in at
registration in order to get schedules.

These are tax-free purchase days as well!

If you have any questions about volunteering,
please contact Susie Learmont at
volunteers@rennerpta.org

June - August 2010 Calendar

JUNE

- 1-4 Final Exams
- 4 Last Day of School - Early Release 12:40pm
- 7 Report Cards
- 8 Plano ISD Graduation:
 - Plano 10am
 - Plano East 2pm
 - Plano West 7pm
- 14 Renner Spirit Night at Yogurtville, Park & Preston - 4-9pm

JULY

- 19 Renner Spirit Night at Yogurtville, Park & Preston - 4-9pm

AUGUST

- 12 6th Grade Renner Registration - 9am - 12pm
- 7th Grade Renner Registration - 1 - 4pm
- 13 8th Grade Renner Registration - 9am - 12pm
- Students New to PISD Registration - 1 - 4pm
- 17 Renner Spirit Night at Yogurtville, Park & Preston - 4-9pm
- 23 First Day of School
- Welcome Back Coffee - 9:15am

**Have a
Great Summer!**



The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Time Flies...

As the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. As I have shared with many parents, this 8th grade group of students that is leaving Renner really brought that point home to me this year. This is my first group of students that I have had the good fortune to work with as their principal. I still remember our 8th grade students, who now look like adults, with some standing taller than me, as uncertain 6th grade students. The three years this group has been at Renner has gone by in the blink of an eye. This is what is great about working with middle school students. Students walk in through our doors as kids and walk out as young adults. Along the way they experience highs and lows and grow from the experiences in becoming stronger people.

As we end another great school year and head into summer, I want to encourage you to keep your kids engaged and productive. In the words of the great philosophers, The Oompa Loompas from Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, "What do you get from a glut of TV? A pain in the neck and an IQ of 3. Why don't you simply try reading a book? Or could you just not bear to look?" Our kids definitely need to be technology proficient as they enter the workforce, but other skills are equally important. The skill that will help them keep and advance in their careers is the ability to interact and communicate effectively with their colleagues and clients. Sitting in front of a computer, texting, or watching TV all summer won't help them in this regard. Twenty years from now, your kids won't remember a TV show they watched or yet another hour on the computer or phone. What they will remember is quality time and experiences spent with their family and friends doing something positive together. I encourage you to find some time this summer to slow down as a family and enjoy your time together. As the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. The kids you see before you today will be driving your car and out of sight before you know it. Summer brings an opportunity to reconnect with your kids without all the hustle of life with homework and activities. A teenager's need to talk to their parents doesn't always come at times we expect. This summer be present to listen when your kids have more to say than "fine" or "yes" when you ask a question. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing all our Mustangs again in August.

The Principal's Column, continued
By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

I also want to take this moment to thank all the members of our unbelievable PTA. You have outdone yourselves again this year and on behalf of the entire staff we thank you. You take care of our kids and make our staff feel appreciated. I especially want to thank our PTA president Carolyn Keeter for her outstanding leadership and dedication to our Renner students and their families. We could not provide the environment and education we do at Renner without our families. Thanks for all your support throughout this year.

Bill McLaughlin, Principal

A decorative graphic of a scroll with a ribbon-like border, containing the following text.

Renner Named One of Best Schools in Texas!

The non-profit organization Children At Risk has rated all Texas public schools. Of 1,720 middle schools in the state, Renner was rated **#42**. This recognition is due to our great kids, teachers, and families. Go Mustangs!!



The President's Column

By Carolyn Keeter, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President

Where has this school year gone? It feels like yesterday we were at the Renner cafeteria for Schedule and Packet Pick-up. As we close this 2009-2010 school year, I would like to thank my wonderful PTA Board: **Jenny Wood, Jill Van Mater, Denise Evans, Julie Myers, Jennifer Fuller, Sandy Seaton, Leslie Gilvar, Laura Morris, Becky Tanoury, Jill Blackwell, Jani Hillyard, Ruth Kaminski, Antoinette Anz, Linda Regan-Pellicone, Allison Choucair, Julie Brown, Trish Donaldson, Mary Kay Drury, Jacque Delkus, Holly Blais, Corinne Frank, Jill Dardick, Katherine Sigrist, Lori Baum, Masae Rinkliff, Christine Platt, Sandee Black, Terri Perkins, Silvia Cosby, Frances Fass, Justina Cox, Kim Brown, Susie Learmont, Michelle Adams, Lori Gropper, Holly Castora, Jenny Craig, Sam Clement, Kathy Grane, Rose Taper, Michelle Chaiken, Jan Richard, and Jan Poston.** They are truly amazing and have made my job really easy. The old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" is really true and these women have been the village this year at Renner. Most people are not aware of all of the work that is done behind the scenes like scheduling volunteers for the copy room, school store and any event that takes place at Renner. Please thank these women when you see them. They have been working for all of the students.

Even in May they have been working for the Renner staff and students. **Mary Kay Drury** did a fantastic job for the teachers during staff appreciation week. We are all ready to go to the beach now. Thank you also to **Katherine Sigrist** who organized dinner for every staff member at Renner. Thank you also to every volunteer who helped feed or honor a staff member during this week. **Lori Baum** did a wonderful job of organizing the school supply drive for Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. The students of Renner really learned to give back this year through all of Lori's philanthropic events. Thank you also to **Sandee Black** for a wonderful week of "Reading with the Stars". The eighth graders were honored on May 21st with a yearbook signing/graduation party. Thank you to **Holly Castora** for organizing this wonderful afternoon for our "graduates".

As we look forward to summer please remember a couple of items. We will continue the Renner Spirit Nights at Yogurtville. These nights are really a great way for the Renner PTA to make a little extra money and it's also fun to see other Renner friends. The dates through the sum-

The President's Column, continued
By Carolyn Keeter, 2009-2010 Renner PTA President



mer are: **Monday, June 14th**, **Monday, July 19th**, and **Tuesday, August 17th**. Remember to run by the store at Park and Preston between 4:00 and 9:00pm and place your receipt in the Renner bucket. Schedule and Packet Pick-up will be on **August 12th** and **August 13th**. The Renner PTA will also host its annual PTA Welcome back coffee on the first day of school, **August 23rd**.

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as the Renner PTA President for the past 2 years. Mr. McLaughlin and his staff are such a joy to work with and really love what they do for our students every day. I wish Julie Myers and the new Renner PTA Board members lots of luck next year and I know you each will be a part of making Renner the best middle school in Plano .

Carolyn Keeter
Renner PTA President
president@rennerpta.org



Spirit Nights at Yogurtville
Park & Preston
4 - 9pm
Monday, June 14th
Monday, July 19th
Tuesday, August 17th

**Please welcome the
2010 - 2011 Renner PTA Board:**

Officers and Chairman	
President	Julie Myers
1st VP - Programs	Kelley Egelston
2nd VP- Volunteers	Susie Learmont
3rd VP - Ways & Means	Jenny Wood
4th VP- Membership	Lori Baum
Secretary	Jennifer Fuller
Treasurer	Sandy Seaton
Historian	Jennifer Feagin
Parliamentarian	Jill Van Mater
Past President	Carolyn Keeter
Arts in Education Chairman	Sherry Koven
Environmental Chairman	Brigitte Peterson
Faculty Representative	Bill McLaughlin
Hospitality/Newcomer Chairman	Ruth Kaminski
Legislative Chairman	Antoinette Anz
Publicity Chairman	Linda Regan-Pellicone
Renner Round-Up Chairman	Sherri Arvin
Safety/Youth Protection Chair	Kathy Grane
School Store Chairman	Shawn Batjer
Teacher Appreciation Chairman	Sheryl Pidgeon

PTA

Standing Committees	
Birthday Cake Coordinator	Corinne Frank
Book Fair Coordinator	Holly Blais
Calendar/Activities Line Coordinator	Allison Choucair
Care Coordinator	Christine Platt
Casserole Coordinator	Jacque Delkus
Community Outreach Coordinator	Jill Dardick
Cultural Fusion	Masae Rinkliff
Directory Coordinator	Pam Spooner
Library Coordinator	Sam Clement
Office and Copy Coordinator	Karen Dibble
Partnerships Coordinator	Silvia Cosby
PTA Website Coordinator	Victoria Gobeli
Round-Up Distribution Coordinator	Justina Cox
Spirit Wear Coordinator	Kim Brown
Staff/Team Luncheon 8th	Kelli Moore
Staff/Team Luncheon 7th	Leslie Gilvar
Staff/Team Luncheon 6th	Susan Schildcrout
Student Socials Coordinator	Holly Castora
Teacher Treats	Becky Tanoury
Yard Signs/Decal Coordinator	Holly Carlson
Directory Advertising Coordinator	Tracy Tomson
SAGE Chairman	Rose Taper
School Store Scheduling	Denise Evans
Science Fair Chairman	Terri Perkins
Yearbook	Lynn Blomquist

Thank you for stepping up and
volunteering your time and talents.
If you have any questions about the
Renner PTA over the summer,
please contact one of the volunteers above.
We look forward to a great school year.

Get Involved at Renner!

Renner Volunteers Make a Difference EVERY Day!

Your opportunity to participate and be involved at your child's school begins by volunteering at Schedule and Packet Pick-up (Registration). Your help is needed on Thursday, August 12th and Friday, August 13th.

We need volunteers in many areas from spirit wear, yard signs, volunteer table, to handing out schedules and lunch codes. We will also need 8th graders to give tours to the 6th graders during their registration time. If you wish, you may work the shift of your child's grade level. During this time you can register your own child, catch up with old friends and meet new friends.

Please contact Susie Learmont at volunteers@rennerpta.org to sign up. Your presence will contribute to a wonderful experience for all.

If you are unable to help during registration, don't worry. There are many volunteer areas available throughout the school year. You will have an opportunity to sign up for one of them at registration.

To volunteer at Renner, a Volunteer Agreement and Criminal History Check are required. The Volunteer Agreement will be available at registration. **If you have already registered once online for the Criminal History Check, you may update your information for the coming year on or after July 1. These forms are mandatory for all Renner volunteers. You are encouraged to complete the online process early so you are cleared and eligible to volunteer the first week of the new school year.**

Your service to Renner Middle School is one of the best gifts you can give your child. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in creating a successful 2010-2011 year for our children, teachers, school staff, and ourselves.

For More About Registration 2010-2011, see page 11

Renner 2010-2011 Registration:

6 th grade – August 12 th	9:00am to 12:00pm
7 th grade – August 12 th	1:00pm to 4:00pm
8 th grade – August 13 th	9:00am to 12:00pm
Students New to PISD – August 13 th	1:00pm to 4:00pm

Missing Registration?

Are you going to be out of town during registration? There are two things you can do:

1. Have a friend pick up the schedule for you. You must write a note authorizing them to pick it up for you. **MAKE SURE** you give them your emergency form to turn in.

OR

2. When you get back in town, go to the counselor's office and pick up your schedule. This can only be done **AFTER** registration is over, not before. You must bring your emergency form and turn it in order to get your schedules.

School supplies will be for sale on the first day of school for those who missed registration.

Where is My Emergency Form?

Your emergency form will be mailed to you later this summer. You must bring this form with you to turn in at registration. If you forget it or never got one, you can get a copy of it in the office during registration.

Calling All 2010-2011 8th Graders!

Soon you will be the veterans at Renner! How would you like to give tours of Renner to the incoming 6th graders during registration this summer?

6th grade registration is on Thursday, August 12th from 9am - 12pm. Contact Susie Learmont at volunteers@rennerpta.org if you would like to show the new Mustangs around.

Thank you for Volunteering at Renner...

Mustang High Hooves to Our Copy Room Volunteers!

Have you wondered how our teachers get all those copies done? Copies of worksheets, copies of information, copies of lists, copies of activities, copies of lessons, copies, copies, copies...We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to our school-wide copy room volunteers. A big thank you to each of you: Debbie Pevsner, Donna Roudi, Elizabeth Ching, Huda Barri, Jacklin Torbatian, Joy Murray, Masae Rinkliff, Maureen Downing, Poornima Poondi, Quyen Tate, Rhonda Thal, Suma Vazhavilla, Terri Perkins, and Terry Banko.



A Big Thank You to all the Counselor Office Volunteers!

With the end of the school year upon us, it's time to say THANK YOU! We could not have done it without you. That kind of support is the envy of most schools, and in my opinion, is one of the reasons we have a great school. A big thank you to the following people who helped out in the counselor's office this school year:

Ann Lee, Arshila Sojdie, Beth Galway, Cathy Sung, Debbien kenvin, Donna Roudi, Gabriela Delgadillo, Holly Castora, Jean Lundell, Jennifer Strauss, Jill Van Mater, Joy Murray, Jule Geldert, K. David, Kim Overs, Leslie Roetzel, Lourdes Salinas, Maryam Nazan, Poornima Pondi, Rohda Thal, Saamia Suraishi, Sophia Polk, Susan Ellison, and Tracey Hamilton.



Thank You Renner School Store Volunteers!

The PTA would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time to volunteer in the school store this year. The school store could not have stayed open without you! It's a great way to help out the PTA and interact with the kids too. We hope that you enjoyed it and that you will consider working in the school store again next year. Please contact Denise Evans at storeschedule@rennerpta.org for more information or to get on next year's schedule.

Teacher Appreciation Week

A Huge Success!

By: Mary Kay Drury



Thank you to everyone that helped make the teachers and staff feel our love and appreciation during their special week. I especially want to thank Katherine Sigrist for doing an outstanding job coordinating the casserole day which is an enormous undertaking. I also would like to thank Cindy Johnson for coordinating the ice cream sundae social and Jill Dardick for coordinating the staff gift. There were many people that came together to make this a wonderful week for the staff, so thank you all so much.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Teacher Appreciation Chair this year. Thank you to everyone that has helped with all of the luncheons throughout the year. I will be moving on to Shepton next year, but don't fear; I am coordinating Hospitality there and will hang on to your emails!

Have a great summer!

Will you be a SHEPTON Parent next year?

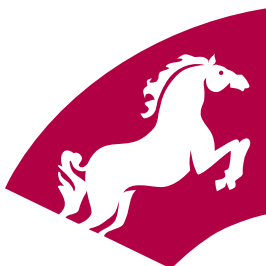
Will you be a parent of a child at Shepton next year?

Do you like volunteering?

If so, and you'd like to volunteer by working
Shepton's School Store, we could use you!

The Shepton School Store, which sells snacks and school supplies,
is open daily from 11:30am -1:30pm. If interested, please send your
volunteer preferences to Lori Baum at waysmeans@sheptonpta.org.

We look forward to working with you! **Go Stallions!!**



Shepton Schedule Pick-up - Volunteers Needed

Please email Michelle Chaiken, 2nd VP Volunteers,
at volunteers@sheptonpta.org if you are able to
volunteer for Shepton's Schedule Pick-up:

Thursday, August 12th 9:00am - 12:00pm 10th grade
Friday, August 13th 9:00am - 12:00pm 9th grade

SERVICE HOURS for National Honor Society,
National Junior Honor Society, Boy Scouts,
or other service groups will be given...
Sign Up Now!

2009-2010 Renner Directory Advertisers!!

**Help yourself - Help your school!
Read through the list below...**

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
Orthodontist	George Q. Adams, Orthodontics
Orthodontist	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	Regenesis Remodeling
Tutoring Center	Plano SAT Master
Women, Healthcare	Plano Healthcare for Women

Environmental Club Celebrates Earth Day!

By: Terri Perkins

In celebration of Earth Day, the Environmental Club constructed an 8-foot long dinosaur sculpture made out of recycled materials. The entire school was asked to bring in some recycle materials to glue on the sculpture to help celebrate Earth Day! The sculpture, pictured below, has been on display in the school library. Great job Renner!



RENNER SPIRIT WEAR!

Coming Soon...NEW Renner Spirit Wear! We will have lots of new spirit wear items to choose from at Packet Pick-up in August. Get your gym clothes, bags, cool new t-shirts, and sweatshirts when you pick up your schedule and school supplies. Be sure to stop by the spirit wear tables and check out what's new!

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



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.



**Don't forget to collect those
BOX TOPS!!**

Looking for an easy way to help Renner earn some money? Just bring in your Box Tops! Each little Box Top gives our school 10 cents. Just bring them to the pink box in front of the office and put them in there. It's that easy, and we'll collect them until the end of the year. Don't have any? Not a problem. Just save them up over the summer as we will be doing this again next year. Also, you can ask your family such as your aunts; uncles; cousins and see if they might help you join the cause. Thanks for your help!

Kristy Leon

6th Grade Dolphins



The Dolphin Team would like to again thank all the parents who have shown appreciation to the teachers all year. The dinners, lunches, casseroles, breakfasts, treats, cakes, and gifts all during the year have meant so much to us. It is, of course, a **privilege** just to teach your children, but you have gone the extra mile in giving your time and talents to make us feel **appreciated!**

In addition, we would like to thank the many, many parents who on a daily basis ensure the academic success of their children by attending parent conferences, checking agendas, modeling organization skills, organizing lockers, providing a quiet homework place, and supporting us when the occasional discipline issue arises.

We hope you have a **wonderful** summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Language Arts Ideas for the Summer:

Please encourage your child to **read silently** for pleasure **each day**. Books, magazines, newspapers, etc. are all good sources. If possible, read the same material and discuss the concepts and ideas or plot and characters with your child. Please don't forget about the Public Library Summer Programs for students. **Opportunities for writing** might be journal writing, letters to relatives, and book or movie reviews (I'd love to have some for my bulletin boards in August.) **Discuss ideas** with your child whenever possible to develop speaking skills. Going on trips, doing chores, watching the news, running errands, caring for a pet, doing handcrafts, and playing board games can all be good opportunities to **model conversation skills and higher-level thinking skills**. Limit the video games and TV and **encourage personal interaction** with other kids instead. **Have fun!**

Finally, the summer months are a great time to get your child involved in **community service projects**. Research has shown that children who get out and help others are much **less likely** to use illegal drugs, smoke, or use alcohol. Nursing homes, animal shelters, religious organizations, parks and recreation, and local neighborhood organizations will often allow and encourage middle school students to help out. This teaches children **responsibility and problem-solving** and keeps them from being too self-centered. To truly build character, children must reach out to help others and **discover the joy** that this brings.



6th Grade Penguins

This school year has been enjoyable and productive for teachers and students on the Penguin hall. Thank you to all the students for showing exceptional citizenship as a group in the halls and classrooms. You have done your work with pride and a positive attitude and you have been a joy to your teachers. Thank you to the parents of Penguin students for the countless ways you have supported the teachers and helped the students experience success in middle school. Ms. Lange, Ms. Keener, Mrs. Hees, Mrs. Fuller, and Ms. Harbin wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

The Penguins have continued to actively learn until the last day of school. In **Social Studies**, the last unit has been Global Interactions. Students have learned about the European Union and Asia with an emphasis on trade throughout the Pacific Rim. The students have developed an awareness this year of the world outside of the United States, and have learned about cultures, types of governments, economies, and human rights, and key issues in the world today.

In **Math** our year wound down with our unit, "Stretching and Shrinking". This unit explored similar figures, ratios, and scale factor. Students created and manipulated the Wump family, and at the end of the unit, we enlarged a comic strip scene. The red Connected Math and blue TAKS workbooks should be coming home, so be on the lookout. There are still lots of extra pages that students can complete during the summer to maintain and extend their Math skills over the summer! All 6th grade Math students will take a Spring Semester Exam during exams week (the last week of school). The Penguin Math students have done an outstanding job this year. Ms. Keener is proud of each student's accomplishments and hopes that all her students will continue to grow and be successful next year.

As we wrapped up the year in **Science**, we travelled through space! Our focus was on Newton's laws, the relationship between force & motion, how limiting factors affect space travel, characteristics of planets and space exploration. For our culminating project, each student put their knowledge and skills to the test by building their own rocket to launch!

Language Arts classes finished up the year with a literature-based unit entitled *Imagining Other Worlds*. In this unit, students focused on the genre of historical fiction via book clubs and self-selected historical fiction novels. In each book club meeting, Penguins engaged in discus-

6th Grade Penguins *continued...*

sions which include the effects of setting, making connections, vocabulary acquisition, characterization, and theme. We ended this unit with a brief study of science fiction. These enduring skills will make a good foundation for our Penguins in their appreciation of good literature throughout their lives.

6th Grade Sea Otters



The **Social Studies** classes wound down the year with a look at 20th Century Europe and Global Interactions. Students took a brief look at World War I and II and examined the influence of the UN and EU in today's society. Asia was also highlighted in the final unit with an emphasis on trade throughout the Pacific Rim. We hope our whirlwind tour around the globe has been exciting and enlightening!

In **Language Arts**, the Sea Otters read self-selected books in book clubs where small groups of students gathered together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion was guided by students' responses to what they read. You may have heard talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft, or personal experiences related to the story. Book clubs provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, book clubs guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response. The **PACE** students wrapped up their Utopia Unit. Their final unit was about a dystopia, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. We have enjoyed having your children in our classes this year. Please encourage your child to read over the summer!

The Sea Otter **Science** class wound down the year with a look at the relationships of objects in space. The grand finale was launching their own student -made rocket!!

We had a wonderful time with all of you in **Math** classes! We enjoyed getting to know you this year. We wish you the best of luck in the seventh grade, especially in Math. This year, you learned an important set of basics that you will use for the rest of your lives - operations with fractions, operations with decimals, and how to figure percent of a number and what percent. Your knowledge of probability and statistics will also serve you well as you go through school and life. Math is everywhere - We hope you see it!



7th Grade Language Arts:

TO CURRENT 6th GRADERS - we hope you will enjoy your summer break! Those school bells will be ringing again before we know it, so here are some tips for getting a fantastic start in English 7 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Take time out of your busy activities to read! Set aside a quiet time each day and discuss your selections with an adult. Talking about what we read often helps with summarizing and main ideas.

7th grade will begin the year with a writing diagnostic. Journal writing will keep you in touch with the basic writing skills needed for this task. Review any writing tips you saved from 6th grade.

Buy your supplies and have them the first day of school. Your teachers will help you to set up your binders for each class and being organized is a must for the year.

Last of all come with a positive, enthusiastic attitude! You will find 7th grade to be one of your best years in middle school. See you soon!

7th Grade Texas History:

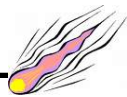
Stephen Fagin, a Curator for The Sixth Floor Museum of Dealey Plaza, was on campus May 14th to talk to all 7th grade **History** students about John F. Kennedy. His presentation, entitled "Voices", showed images from the Museum's collections while he narrated the day of Kennedy's assassination through various firsthand accounts. With Stephen as the narrator, he presented the perspectives of school children, police officers, reporters, and others who lived the experience that day in Dallas.

7th Grade Science:

The 7th grade Science students have just wrapped up a very successful school year. The students completed the Genetics unit with great success and growing the fast plants and pollinating was quite an adventure. Mrs. Gunnels, Ms. Hurley, and Mrs. Saari have truly enjoyed teaching all of your students and hope that they will carry the scientific skills they have learned with them into future classes. During the summer, please have your Honors Science student be thinking of ideas for the science fair project for their 8th grade year.

Have a fantastic summer!

8th Grade Comets, Stars & Suns



Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children this year! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and work with them. They have put forth a great effort and are ready to spread their wings and fly off to high school. We wish all of our students a fun and relaxing summer and the best of luck at Shepton! Come back to visit us soon!

Renner 8th grade Teachers

Lady Mustang Athletics 2010-2011

By: Kelly Brown

We are excited that your child is interested in becoming a part of the Lady Mustang Athletic Program.

Coaching Staff:

Kelly Brown - 7th Volleyball and 8th Basketball

Heather McGuire - 8th Volleyball and Track

Allie Rogosheske - 7th Basketball and Track

Greg Coutermarsh - Cross Country

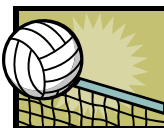
Cindy Segler - 7th and 8th Tennis

Prior to tryouts, UIL requires all athletes to have a physical and medical history form on file with coaches. Forms can be printed from the UIL website: http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/forms/pdf/policy/phys_eval_medical.pdf

Lady Mustang Athletics continued...

Volleyball Tryouts

August 24th-August 27th
(Physicals due August 23rd)
8th - 7:00-8:15am
7th - 3:45-5:15pm



- Athletes must sign up with coaches and receive a tryout number on the first day of school.
- Athletes will wear black shorts/sweats and a white t-shirt with their tryout number on the front and back.
- Athletes must attend all 4 tryout sessions.
- All sessions are closed.

Fall Tennis Tryouts

- Tryouts will be the second week of school.
- Physical and medical history forms are due the first day of school to coach Segler.

Basketball Tryouts

November 9th-November 12th
(Physicals are due November 3rd)
8th - 7:00-8:15am
7th - 3:45-5:15pm



- Athletes must sign up with coaches and receive a tryout number on November 2nd.
- Athletes will wear black shorts/sweats and a white t-shirt with their tryout number on the front and back.
- Athletes must attend all 4 tryout sessions.
- All sessions are closed.

Track / Cross Country Tryouts

- Athletes must have a physical and medical history form on file with coaches prior to their first workout.
- Track and Cross Country seasons will begin early March following the city basketball tournaments.
- Coaches will hold a spring meeting during school to give athletes information.

8th Grade PACE

PACE Testing Results

Students who tested for PACE April 20, 2010, will receive letters in the mail explaining the results of the testing. If a student was placed in the program, he or she will be scheduled into a PACE class in the fall of 2010.

Mock Trial

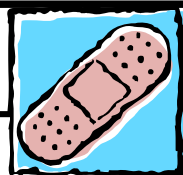
By the time you receive this, students will have competed in the Collin County Mock Trial competition. Renner sent two teams of eighth grade PACE students to the competition. **Lawyers** were Emily Zagorski, Susannah Dibble, Lisa Michaels, and Sarah Shao. **Witnesses** were David Sung, Megan Armstrong, Yuyeon Lee, Leon Gu, Arnold Wey, Shameek Malviya, Naina Rao, Blake Richard, Tiffanie Hwang, Brianna Loomis, Edward Yu, and Alex Hairston. **Legal Assistants** were Ricky Rajani, Aishu Buvandiran, Rebecca Miles, Jordan Lee, and Rachel Rogers. Once again, Mr. Charles Awalt volunteered his time to train the students in trial etiquette, critical thinking, and legal proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Awalt!

7th Grade PACE

After studying the musical genre of the Blues, seventh graders produced artistic, musical, or research projects related to their study. Then, *Taming of the Shrew* proved to be a highlight for the students, who read Shakespeare for the first time before writing and performing an updated version of the play. They ended the year by reading Anthony Hope's *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

8th Grade PACE

Students completed a self-analysis by creating wonderful portraits of themselves in the style of Chuck Close. Because the students expressed their individuality and creativity, each proved unique. When the images were exhibited in the hallways, they created so much interest and admiration. The eighth graders also read *Anne Frank Remembered*, *The Sunflower*, and *Taming of the Shrew*, which kept them busy and prepared them for the rigors of high school next year.

Nurse's Notes - by Judith Grace**The School Nurse's Wish List for 2010-2011**

As we finish the end of another productive school year at Renner, I am already looking forward to a fresh start in August. I hope that the suggestions below will hit home with many of you. Changes in our economy and the normal life changes of living with adolescents bring new challenges to parents. We must work together as a team to offer a safe and healthy learning experience for all our students. Here are some ways that you can help:

1. Your child's emergency card will be mailed to you over the summer. Fill out the emergency card completely, make changes in RED, and keep it up to date with phone numbers and emergency contacts. WRITE NEATLY. Write the names of every person you want to be authorized to be able to pick up your child. If you are notified that the emergency cards will be available on line this summer, please follow the directions carefully and be sure the information is correct.
2. Provide up-to-date information about your child's medical conditions and any medications they take. Your openness about your child's medical conditions will help me to make good judgments and determinations about his/her care. Please contact me directly about any changes in your child's health.
3. If you do not have medical insurance for your child, please consider applying for Texas CHIP. I have applications and other resources for free and reduced-cost insurance, medical and dental care, eye exams and glasses, medications, and immunizations. All requests will be handled confidentially.
4. Every time your child gets a new vaccine, ask for a copy for the school nurse. If your child needs vaccines, I can direct you to places where free and reduced-cost vaccines are available. I can also give you copies of your child's shot record.
5. Establish your family with a "medical home." Choose a provider and stick with them so that your child can get consistent care.
6. Get to know your pharmacist. If your child is having mild symptoms such as with a cold or allergy, your pharmacist can recommend medications for your child. A child with a cold may not be able to focus if their symptoms are persistent. They need medication or they need to stay home.

7. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** keep them home when they are sick. This is not your child's decision. It is the parents' decision. While we really do want students to have good attendance, in 2009 we experienced three flu seasons – unprecedented in my 26-year career. By the time the fall outbreak hit us, we were well informed about managing the spread of the flu. Social distancing – keeping out of the public when ill, and flu shots certainly kept us from having a winter 2010 outbreak. Let's keep up the good work.

8. Please read completely and follow the directions that are given to you about handling medical procedures, medications, and readmission to school after illness. The PISD website offers some information and forms at <http://pisd.edu/parents/health/index.shtml> or call the nurse to be sure.

9. If your child has asthma, seizures, severe allergy, or diabetes, please have the Action Plan completed by the doctor before school starts each year. Action Plans are sent home with students at the end of the school year and are available on the website listed above.

10. Please do not ask your child to violate school policies by carrying medications to school. Students may only carry rescue medication for serious medical emergencies. Even then, proper authorizations must be obtained from the physician.

11. Student use of cell phones during the school day is prohibited. Encourage your child to be seen in the health office if they are ill or injured. Even though I have limited resources, many student complaints can be managed with simple measures. If your child calls or texts you, please ask them to go to the health office for an assessment. A call from you to let me know what is going on is appreciated.

12. PISD policy permits the school nurse to administer only those over-the-counter medications that are provided by the parent for a specific child. The medication must be in the original container, and a signed authorization form must be provided to the nurse. With this in mind, try to plan ahead if your child is subject to frequent headaches, orthodontic pain, cramps or allergies. It is also good planning to have a small bottle of analgesic-type medication (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen) if you are not able to leave work to deliver medication during the school day.

13. We do not have any medications for congestion, allergies, diarrhea, cramps, coughing, sneezing, or pain. If your child is having symptoms at home in the morning, it is not likely that they will just get better.

Try to address the problem before they come to school, and do everything you can to get them to eat breakfast.

14. Understand my limitations. We use peppermint candy to ease sore throats, coughing, and a variety of tummy troubles. We use salt-water gargle as a relief for sore throats as well. We have antibiotic ointment for wounds but limited resources for bandaging. Please do not expect your child to get regular dressing changes at school. As always, the nurse does not have a crystal ball, x-ray vision, or tooth fairy wings.

15. Injuries and illness that take place outside of school hours should be evaluated by your personal medical provider. If you question whether or not something is serious enough to require a doctor visit, it probably does. (See also x-ray vision above.)

A Final Word

If your 8th grader is due for a 10 year DPT booster shot in June, July or August, you will have already received notification. This documentation **MUST** be on file or your child will not be able to pick up his or her schedule in August. You may bring the shot record to Schedule Pick-Up if you like or mail it to Shepton over the summer. Keep a copy for yourself.

Parents of all Sixth Graders:

**Take care of your student's
7th Grade Immunizations now!**



Immunizations Required for Entry to Grade 7:

- **TDaP (within the last 5 years)**
- **Meningitis**
- **Varicella #2 (unless student had chicken pox)**

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL AUGUST TO COMPLETE THESE.
Immunizations must be on file in order for your student to
pick up his/her schedule and start school on the first day.**

**Many students have completed these immunizations,
but they are not on file with the nurse.
Contact your physician ASAP.**

**If you need help finding places to get the vaccines,
you can call Miss Grace at (469) 752-5809.**



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