



RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVII, Issue 7

June 2011

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 :
Julie Myers

Newsletter
Chairman :
Sherri Arvin

Distribution
Coordinator :
Justina Cox

Renner Registration & Schedule Pick-Up

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

Thursday, August 11th

6th grade: 9am - 12pm

7th grade: 1 - 4pm

Friday, August 12th

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 2011 Calendar

JUNE

May 31- Final Exams

June 3

6 Last Day of School - Early Release 12:40pm

8 Report Cards

AUGUST

11 6th Grade Renner Registration - 9am - 12pm

7th Grade Renner Registration - 1 - 4pm

12 8th Grade Renner Registration - 9am - 12pm

Students New to PISD Registration - 1 - 4pm

18 6th Grade Open House

22 First Day of School

Welcome Back Coffee - 9:15am

**Have a
Great Summer!**



The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Tell your boss: "Renner told me to take a day off"

That's right parents: This summer I want you to tell your boss "I won't be in tomorrow." If you are the boss, then I want you to give yourself permission to let someone else handle business for a day. Then, I want you to do something spontaneous and fun with your family. Tell them I encouraged you to take the day off for the benefit of your child. Go create some memories that will last a life time. You will not remember whatever you had scheduled to do at work, but you will remember this time.

The one thing I have begun to notice even more as my own daughter enters 7th grade next year is how fast the 3 years fly by in middle school. Those of you that have older children know that soon your middle school child will be driving and off with their friends. This will happen faster than you think. Middle school has always been that "middle time" with students being somewhere between a child and a teenager, on their way to being an adult. This a time where they have trouble distinguishing between real problems, and what should be considered minor problems. Connecting with them during good times will allow you the opportunity to have conversations about their life, friends, problems, and the things that are on their mind. Though they don't show it, and many times tell you the exact opposite thing, they want to be with their family and do fun things together. Put the phones, computers, and texts away for awhile and enjoy each other's company. Try getting out of town for the weekend, head to the lake, take them to the movies, play games at home, go shopping (not my personal favorite recommendation), etc. This summer, take some time to do something together.

The summer is also a very important time in terms of learning and school achievement. Some students take advantage of this time and continue to read, learn, and see things that will benefit them in school the next year. Other students that don't take advantage of this time can begin to fall behind. In 2009 Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described summer learning loss as "devastating". Others call

The Principal's Column, continued

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal



this the “summer slide”. While it is good to relax, kids need to continue to read and stay up with math and sciences. Encourage your children to continue to read, learn, stay active, and explore areas of interest.

Trying to balance all the things we have on our plates as parents can be overwhelming at times. During the school year we have to figure out ways to work, handle the household, school, events, games, practices, parties, and getting our kids everywhere they need to be, and on time as well. Take time this summer to slow down and find something that everyone can do together. Think about something that would interest your kids and then surprise them with the gift of time and memories.

I want to thank Julie Myers and her family for the many hours she gave in leading our PTA. She truly cares about all the Renner students and is dedicated to supporting them and the staff. I also want to say a special thank you to everyone that joined the PTA and volunteered their time in our school. This community has a strong commitment to their kids and this school. We really appreciate all that was done for Renner this year. Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing our returning students and families in August.

Go Mustangs!
Bill McLaughlin

**First Day of School
August 22nd**



The President's Column

By Julie Myers, 2010 - 2011 Renner PTA President

It's hard to believe that another school year has gone by. It feels like yesterday we were at Renner for Schedule and Packet Pick-up. As we close the 2010 – 2011 school year, I would like to thank my wonderful PTA Board: Kelley Eggleston, Susie Learmont, Jenny Wood, Lori Baum, Jennifer Fuller, Sandy Seaton, Jennifer Feagin, Jill Van Mater, Carolyn Keeter, Sherry Koven, Brigitte Peterson, Ruth Kaminski, Antoinette Anz, Linda Regan-Pellicone, Sherri Arvin, Kathy Grane, Shawn Batjer, Sheryl Pidgeon, Julie Kabel, Corinne Frank, Holly Blais, Debra Copley, Allison Choucair, Christine Platt, Jacque Delkus, Jill Dardick, Masae Rinkliff, Pam Spooner, Sam Clement, Karen Dibble, Jamie Hanna, Sylvia Cosby, Victoria Gobeli, Justina Cox, Kim Brown, Kelli Moore, Leslie Gilvar, Susan Schildcrout, Holly Castora, Becky Tanoury, Jenny Craig, Hollie Carlson, Tracy Tomson, Rose Taper, Denise Evans, Terri Perkins and Lynn Blomquest. They are truly amazing and have made my job very easy. Most people are not aware of all of the work that is done behind the scenes like scheduling volunteers for the copy room or school store and any event that takes place at Renner. Thanks to each of you for your committed service to the students of Renner and our community.

Even as the year closes they have been working for the Renner staff and students. Sheryl Pidgeon and Julie Kabel did a fantastic job for the teachers during staff appreciation week including a fun lunch to conclude the week. Thank you to Jacque Delkus who organized dinner for every staff member at Renner on Wednesday of Staff Appreciation week. Also, thank you to every volunteer who helped feed or honor a staff member during this week. Jill Dardick did a wonderful job of organizing our final service project of the year – collecting backpacks and food for the North Texas Food Bank through a program called "Food 4 Kids". Thank you also to Sam Clement for a wonderful week of "Reading with the Stars". The eighth graders were honored on May 20th with a yearbook signing/graduation party. Thank you to Holly Castora for organizing this special afternoon for our "graduates".

As we look forward to summer and the next school year please remember that schedule and packet pick-up are on Thursday, August 11th and Friday, August 12th. The Renner PTA will also host its annual PTA Welcome Back Coffee on the first day of school, August 22nd.

The President's Column, continued
By Julie Myers, 2010 - 2011 Renner PTA President



I have truly enjoyed serving as the Renner PTA President this year and am looking forward to serving again next year. Mr. McLaughlin and his staff are a joy to work with and we very much appreciate what they do for our students every day. I hope everyone has a great summer.

Julie Myers
Renner PTA President
president@rennerpta.org

**Please welcome the
2011 - 2012 Renner PTA Board:**

Officers and Chairman	
President	Julie Myers
1st VP - Programs	Shawn Batjer
2nd VP- Volunteers	Susie Learmont
3rd VP - Ways & Means	Jenny Wood
4th VP- Membership	Lori Baum
Secretary	Leslie Gilvar
Treasurer	Darcey Carter
Historian	Jennifer Feagin
Parliamentarian	Jill Van Mater
Arts in Education Chairman	Nadia Rahman
Environmental Chairman	Brigitte Peterson
Faculty Representative	Bill McLaughlin
Hospitality/Newcomer Chairman	Sam Clement
Legislative Chairman	Katherine Sigrist
Publicity Chairman	Kelli Moore
Renner Round-Up Chairman	Sherri Arvin
Safety/Youth Protection Chair	Kathy Grane
School Store Chairman	Kim Brown
Teacher Appreciation Chairman	Sheryl Pidgeon, Julie Kabel

PTA

Standing Committees	
Birthday Cake Coordinator	Kristy Weinstein
Book Fair Coordinator	Erin Gilliam
Calendar/Activities Line Coordinator	Jennifer Fuller
Care Coordinator	Jacque Delkus
Casserole Coordinator	Michelle Stapleton
Community Outreach Coordinator	Debbie Ross
Cultural Fusion	Justina Cox
Directory Coordinator	Pam Spooner
Library Coordinator	Abbey Rapoport
Office and Copy Coordinator	Deborah Leshefsky
Partnerships Coordinator	Lieschen Bibby
PTA Website Coordinator	Victoria Gobeli
Round-Up Distribution Coordinator	Anne Wageman
Spirit Wear Coordinator	Jeanne Koepke
Staff/Team Luncheon 8th	Holly Castora
Staff/Team Luncheon 7th	Regina Hulcy
Staff/Team Luncheon 6th	Ann McKeown
Student Socials Coordinator	Tracy Tomson
Teacher Treats	Maggie Peck/ Lori Gropper
Yard Signs/Decal Coordinator	Michelle Casten
Directory Advertising Coordinator	Sherie Hammett
SAGE Chairman	Amy Mitchell
School Store Scheduling	Denise Evans
Science Fair Chairman	Masae Rinkliff
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.

Community Partners

Earn \$\$\$ to support Renner Programs every time you shop with our Partners!

The following is a way you can help support Renner Middle School while you shop for your family:

Tom Thumb

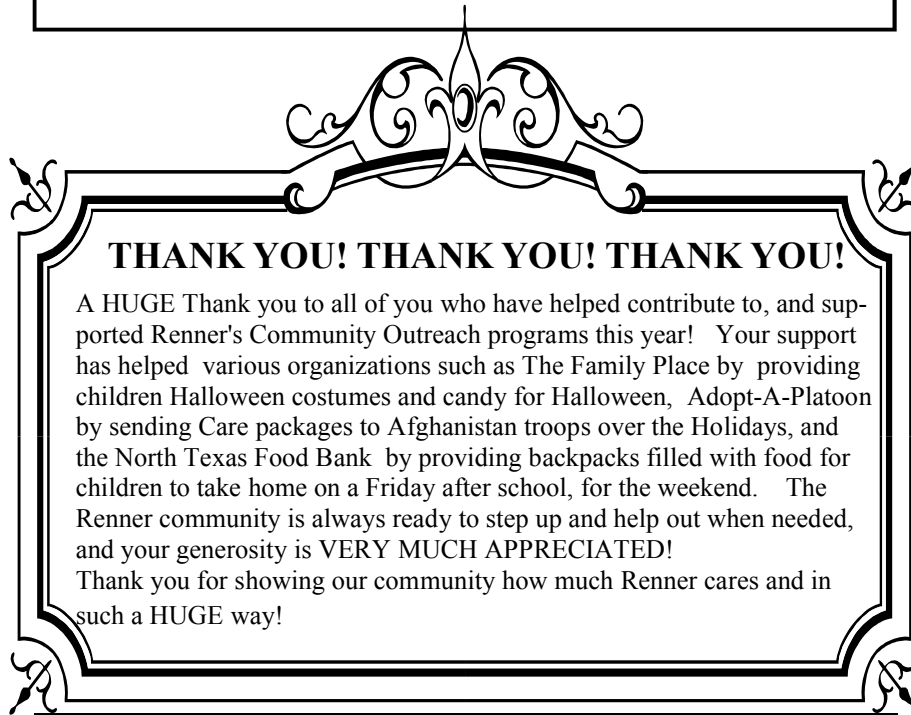
Tom Thumb's Good Neighbor program links your reward card to Renner Middle School. Stop by their Customer Service desk and pick up a registration form. Renner's number is 6266.

Target

Apply for a Visa card at Target and designate Renner Middle School as your school. 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 \$\$\$ 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 Crosby at partnerships@rennerpta.org or (972) 378-



Renner 2011-2012 Registration:

6th grade – August 11th 9:00am to 12:00pm
7th grade – August 11th 1:00pm to 4:00pm
8th grade – August 12th 9:00am to 12:00pm
Students New to PISD – August 12th 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 2011-2012 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.

Teacher Treats

By Becky Tanoury and Jenny Craig, Co-Chairs

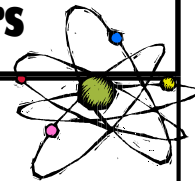
Teacher Treat Volunteers are the Best!!!!

What is the yummiest way to say “thanks” to our Renner Teachers and Staff? With teacher treats of course! Every six weeks the incredible teacher treat volunteers have been providing yummy treats for the Teachers and Staff. These incredible volunteers have baked or purchased an amazing array of snacks. And with these snacks we have been able to transform the teacher’s lounge into an amazing display of our appreciation for our Renner Teachers and Staff. We could not have done it without you, so a heartfelt “thank you” to all the Teacher Treat Volunteers. You are the best!

Next year Maggie Peck and Lori Gropper will be providing treats for the Renner Teachers and Staff and we hope you will join their team. They will start taking names at registration in August. If you are moving on to Shepton, we wish you the best, but just remember you will always be Mustangs.

State Science Fair Winners

We are so proud to announce the State Science Fair results! Renner had more students to place than ever! In their individual categories, and competing against hundreds of students from across the state:



1st place winners: Kausthab Poondi, Michelle Park

2nd place winner: Ria Chhabra

4th place winners: Nirali Thakor, Andrew Friedman

H.M.: William Cheng

One Special Award: Ria Chhabra

Congratulations also to **J.T. Kirtley** and **Connor**

Digan for representing Renner at State.



DON'T THROW AWAY
THOSE PLASTIC CAPS AND LIDS.

WE'LL RECYCLE THEM INTO
COOL ART NEXT YEAR.

WE NEED ALL SIZES, COLORS AND
SHAPES.



Thanks,
Mrs. Kucuk

Teacher Appreciation Week

By Sheryl Pidgeon and Julie Kabel, Co-Chairs

*“Set Sail For Summer “
on the SS Renner Cruise Line
May 2 – May 6, 2011*

All aboard!

It was a week of festive treats and special gifts to thank the teachers and staff for another year of excellence. With the help of student volunteers including Katherine Kabel and Bryce Pidgeon, and the festive décor donated and displayed by Alice Brumback, (a Barksdale mom/soon-to-be Renner family), we decked out the Teacher Lounge to look like a cruise ship.

Monday:

Surprise! TOTEally awesome **TOTE BAGS** were presented to all teachers and staff in their mailboxes. The red and black totes were custom-made with the Renner logo and tagline, “The Spirit of Excellence”.

Tuesday:

Teachers cruised on in to the **SS STARBUCKS COFFEE HOUSE** (located in the Teacher Lounge) for Starbucks coffee complete with flavored syrups, plus specialty teas. **We thank Casey Cobb, Manager of the Starbucks at Parker and the Tollway (5960 W. Parker in the Tom Thumb shopping center) for underwriting a large portion of this treat.**



We also served a huge array of fresh-made **DUNKIN DONUTS**. **We thank the location at 3216 E. Hebron Parkway for underwriting a portion of the donuts.**

The Renner PTA provided the entire staff with a sturdy **STAINLESS STEEL TRAVEL COFFEE CUP** inscribed with the Renner name and tagline, “Bring On The Heat!”

Wednesday:

Teachers were treated to Dinner To-Go courtesy of 130 Renner families. We thank Jacque Delkus, Casserole Chair, for coordinating this huge assignment so we could provide a delicious casserole for every staff member to take home. Thank you also to all the wonderful families that donated the casseroles and the volunteers who helped distribute them.

In addition, The Renner Fans department invited Renner staff to a complimentary baked potato bar with all the fixings, in the cafeteria.

Thursday:

Custom-blended SMOOTHIES were served in the “Surf Shack” (AKA Teacher Lounge) from 11 am to 1:30 pm.

Friday:

Lunch was served on the “Lido Deck” (located in the Library)! Teachers and staff enjoyed a buffet of **POTBELLY** sub sandwiches were served warm with traditional toppings, plus chips, salad and beverages. Thank you to newly-opened Potbelly located at Park near the Tollway for donating 10 gallons of lemonade and iced tea.

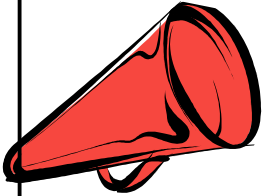
For dessert, we offered DIPPIN DOTS, thanks to the partial underwriting of Elaine Costen, a franchisee.

We also had a drawing to give away some fun prizes. Thank you to STARPOWER for donating some great items!

Thanks to all the Hands on Deck, including Jenny Wood, Sherrie Hammett, Lisa Willis, and Melanie Schein, plus special thanks to Kumei Lu, Renner’s FANS manager for providing ice for our smoothies and working with us throughout the week. And, of course, thank you to Linda Davis and Shana Nowlin.

Finally, thank you to the Renner teachers and staff for another amazing year. Your dedication and endless hard work is evident in all that you do. Your PTA hopes your summer is filled with family, friends, health and good times!

BON VOYAGE!



Calling Shepton Parents!

**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, school supplies, PTSA spirit wear and required reading books is open daily during lunches from 11:30am-1:30pm. If interested, please send your volunteer preferences (when and how much you'd like to work) to Kathy Grane at waysmeans@sheptonptsa.org .

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

RENNER SPIRIT WEAR!

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

Need community service hours? Volunteer to help with the Spirit Wear table during registration. 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!

6th Grade Dolphins



Math

6th graders have had a lot of practice with Algebraic concepts. We will complete our school year with "Stretching and Shrinking". This book explores similar figures, ratios, and scale factor. We will have some fun days with the Wump family, and we will end the unit by enlarging cartoons. The red Additional Practice and Skills Workbook will come home at the end of the school year, so be on the lookout. These should be helpful in completing math skills practice over the summer!

Language Arts

Our final unit of study, "Imagining Other Worlds", focuses on historical fiction and science fiction novels. We began the unit with historical fiction, meeting in weekly book club style to discuss our reading. Science fiction novels are also being read, with the goal to understand the relationship between science fiction and historical fiction, and how they differ from all other genres. We will conclude the unit with research into the historical fiction time periods, with group power points and presentations on their insights. Please ask your student to share their information on the book(s) they have selected...they are doing a great job!

Summer reading: A great place to start would be the list of historical novels presented to our class. They are all excellent choices: *Fever 1793*, *Cracker*, *Trouble Don't Last*, *Elijah of Buxton*, *Nory Ryan's Song*, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Black Duck*, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, and *The Legend of Jimmy Spoon*. Also, check the Plano public library for summer reading programs. The best way to improve writing skills for 7th grade is to read...a lot!

PACE

Students will end the year with a commutative project involving their life in humanities. Students will continue expanding their vocabulary through SAT spelling words and Greek and Latin Roots. Over the summer, students are encouraged to read a variety of texts daily and write about what they have read.

Science

Dolphin scientists are learning about forces and motion. We loved building and launching our rockets!! It's hard to believe that the end of school year is almost upon us. It has been very busy, but productive year. Thank you students for bringing a smile to my face each time I see you. I am very proud of you! Keep up the good work. Also, I would like to thank all the parents for being involved in the academic success of their children throughout the year. I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall!



6th Grade Penguins

2010 – 2011 has been an especially enjoyable year in the **Penguin Hall**. You have been a positive and productive group of students. Getting to know each one of you has been a pleasure for your teachers. Special thanks go to every Penguin parent for the support you have given to all of us. Ms. Harbin, Mrs. Hees, Mr. Welch, and Mrs. Fuller wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

Language Arts ~ Penguins have completed a fun-filled study of literary elements through their book club studies. We have had some interesting meetings to discuss the literature, and we have learned a lot about how author's purpose, literary elements, and the development of theme influence writing. A final assignment for our book study groups is to create a historical timeline presentation for a selected character from their novel. It has been a great year in language arts. We will miss this year's flock of Penguins. We hope that the skills learned will be enduring and will become part of a good foundation for success in seventh grade. We encourage our all of our Penguins to continue to build their reading comprehension by enjoying several good books this summer. **Read ~ Read ~ Read**

Math ~ Our year is winding down with our unit, "**Stretching and Shrinking**". This unit explores similar figures, ratios, and scale factor. Students have created and manipulated the Wump family, and at the end of the unit, we will enlarge 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! 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.

Social Studies ~ This year is coming to a close and the students will be finishing up with an overview of Asia and the Pacific Rim. We have focused on the areas of Southeast Asia, Japan, and China. We were able to briefly go touch on each of these areas past and present. Of course, most of our time was spent on China. China is not only important historically, it is also one of the keys to the success of our nation. All of this culminated with an exam style test that the students will see in years to come. We also went through and reinforced their knowledge of geography by identifying almost every country in the world. This has been a wonderful year and look forward to the same thing next year.

6th Grade Sea Otters



Language Arts

The Sea Otters will be reading self-selected historical-fiction in book clubs. Small groups of students will gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. You may hear 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 discussions and extended written and artistic responses. The PACE students wrapped up their Utopia Unit. Their final unit will be 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!

Social Studies

Classes are winding down the year with a look at Global Interactions. Asia will also be highlighted in the final unit with an emphasis on trade throughout the Pacific Rim. I hope our whirlwind tour around the globe has been exciting and enlightening!

Science

The sea otter science class will wind up the year with a look at the relationships of objects in space. The grand finale will be launching their own student-made rocket!!!!!!!!!! Look out for flying objects over Renner in mid-May!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Sea Otter Math Students:

I had a great time with all of you in my math classes! I enjoyed getting to know each one of you because each student brought a unique quality and characteristic into the classroom. I know that you will enjoy seventh grade math next year—because you are already doing the first part of seventh grade math and we've been having a blast! Yeah! You are collaborating, explaining, thinking, writing, and practicing so much, you may not have noticed that we've already covered the first two books of seventh grade math! Whew! So...I wish you the best of "times tables" in the seventh grade. Ha-ha! (You know you love my jokes!)

In review, you learned an important set of basics that you will use for the rest of your lives - operations with fractions, operations with decimals, how to calculate tax, tip and discount, and how to find the perimeter and area of circles, triangles and quadrilaterals to name a few! Wow! Your knowledge of probability and statistics will also serve you well as you prepare for eighth and ninth grade math. If you didn't notice it already, you will begin to realize that math really is everywhere! Do you see it?



Science

What an incredible year of science we've had! From Bottle Biology to our human body unit to our insect collections, we have learned how living systems maintain balance in their environments.

ALL HONORS SCIENCE STUDENTS: Please begin thinking/planning your independent research project for next year. Remember that we begin the first week of school turning in 3 possible topics to research. Requirements are that the topics are testable, you can state the independent and dependent variables, and they are on or above grade level.

Math

We highly recommend that all students do some kind of math work over the summer. The statistics show that kids will lose at least 30% of what they learned during their summer time off. We think the statistics are higher in some cases. We recommend the workbooks called Summerskills and you can find them at Summerskills.com and it is a great review. The kids spend 15 -20 minutes three times a week. That is only an hour each week and the benefits are that they do not lose ground in their skills.

Please continue to send your kids to tutoring as needed.

English

Soon to be seventh 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 2011-2012 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.

Seventh grade will begin the year with a writing diagnostic. Journal writing this summer will keep you in touch with the basic writing skills needed for this task. Review any writing tips you saved from sixth 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; being organized is a must for the year.

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

8th Grade

SUNS and STARS always shine! The COMETS always soar!

To the parents: The 8th grade teachers would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of working with your children this year. The time spent, the lessons learned, the new acquaintances, and the fellowships that have developed throughout this year have created a stable foundation for the students to be successful in high school.

To our students: Congratulations on your achievements! We wish you great success in high school. Have a wonderful summer. Relax, rejuvenate, rekindle family relationships, and remember:

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” (Eleanor Roosevelt)

Suns Team

Mrs. Emmerich
Mrs. Llamas-Crouch
Mrs. Mason
Coach Reinberg

Comets Team

Ms. Austin
Coach Jones
Mr. Reck
Mrs. Taglioli

Stars Team

Mrs. Schlinkman
Mrs. Varjian
Mrs. Woodard
Mrs. Zetsche

Lady Mustang Athletics 2011-2012

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 Alda - 8th Volleyball and Track
Allie Rogosheske - 7th Basketball and Track
Andy Reinberg - Cross Country

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 23rd -August 26th (Physicals due August 22nd)

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.

Basketball Tryouts

November 8th-11th (Physicals are due by October 31st)

8th - 7:00-8:15AM

7th - 3:45-5:15PM



- Athletes must sign up with coaches and receive a tryout number on November 7th.
- 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

- 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.



Technology Education - by Fred Conger

7th Grade – Computer Applications – 1 Semester

Students taking this class will study Technology Systems, Proper File naming and management, the history of computing and how computers and the internet work. They will also work with Photoshop learning to edit pictures, and then study the Physics involved in Roller Coasters. They will then use simulation software to design and ride virtual roller coasters. Students will learn to program Lego NXT Robots to respond to different types of inputs (sound, light, distance travelled, ultrasonic reflections, and touch) and to perform various tasks based upon the stimuli they encounter. Students will also learn to create basic Web Pages using HTML code.

School supplies include pencils, notepaper, a folder or notebook for papers, and an interest in learning to apply their core course knowledge (especially science and mathematics) to real world applications.

8th Grade – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway to Technology - 1 Semester

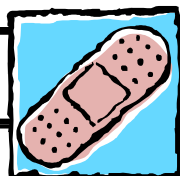
This Pre-Engineering course was new to Plano ISD in 2010-2011. It counts as a ½ high school credit and applies toward the student's GPA. This class is heavy STEM oriented and supports the core courses in addition to preparing the groundwork for additional PLTW engineering courses available in high school.

The course is divided into two major sections. Section 1: "Design & Modeling" includes the topics: What is Technology, What do Engineers do, The Design Process, Measuring, Sketching Techniques and 3D Computer Modeling. Section 2: "Automation & Robotics" includes the topics: Understanding Robots, Mechanical Mechanisms, and Automation Through Programming.

There are many computer and hands on projects in both of these sections. Student school supplies include a "good" mechanical drawing pencil, notepaper and a genuine interest in understanding the design process and putting math and science knowledge to work inventing solutions to real world wants and needs. Student notebooks and all materials are supplied by the school.

Fred Conger
Renner MS
Technology Education/PLTW Gtt Teacher

Nurse's Notes - by Judith Grace



The Power of Peppermint

I had a great laugh recently when I heard a story that a student called me "The Peppermint Nurse." Apparently, he stated, I would even give a peppermint for a severed limb!

In fact, unless parents have previously provided specific medications for their children, nurses in PISD are very limited in the remedies that can be used to alleviate minor symptoms. Students can certainly testify that we rely on water, ice, salt water, rest and of course, the lowly peppermint.

As a nurse with limited resources, I have come to believe in the power of peppermint, the power of suggestion and the power of positive thinking. I have learned through experience that peppermint can alleviate nausea, intestinal cramping, gas, menstrual cramping, sore throat, nasal congestion, and headaches. Peppermint, along with good hydration, ice packs, rest, and a positive attitude often resolve many symptoms in my students.

Peppermint oil has a long tradition of medicinal use with archeological evidence showing its use 10,000 years ago. It has been used for years as flavoring ingredient in many products, including medications. Peppermint has been used to treat headaches, skin irritations, nausea, diarrhea, menstrual cramps and gas. It is an ingredient in chest rubs, has been used to treat symptoms of the common cold, indigestion, and irritable bowel syndrome. In the laboratory, peppermint has been shown to have some antiviral and antibacterial properties.

Peppermint can also be found in some shampoos and soaps, which give the hair a minty scent and produce a cooling sensation on the skin. Used in this way, it has been known to help with insomnia.

In the GI tract, peppermint relaxes the muscles allowing food and gas to pass more quickly through the gut. It is a mild anti-spasmodic. It is not helpful if the cause of the GI discomfort is from GERD (gastro esophageal reflux disease).

Peppermint and its active agent, menthol, are effective decongestants. It thins mucous so it is also a good expectorant, thus helping to loosen and break up coughs with phlegm.

Menthol is used in medicine to relieve pain of sore throat and toothache. It acts also as a local anesthetic, vascular stimulant and disinfectant.

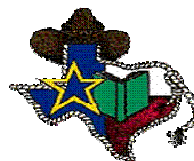
With all of the evidence already identifying the positive effects of peppermint, I think that having peppermints in the health office is a helpful adjunct to traditional medicine. It may not have the same impact as using some over the counter medications or even the full strength of peppermint essential oil, it certainly is helping us to get past many minor symptoms that arise during the school day.

As for the severed limb...I promise to call 911, apply a tourniquet and retrieve the body part. There will be no peppermint offered.

The 2011 Texas Lone Star Reading List is here! Recommended for grades 6-8 by a committee within the Texas Library Association, these titles represent some of the best recently published literature for young persons. If you have been searching for a good book, take a look at this list and then “check one out” at your local library!

2011 Lone Star List

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>
Paolo Bacigalupi	Ship Breaker
Cathleen Davitt Bell	Little Blog on the Prairie
Robin Brande	Fat Cat
Ally Carter	Heist Society
Tera Lynn Childs	Forgive My Fins
Ally Condie	Matched
Carl Deuker	Payback Time
Erin Dionne	The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet
Brian Falkner	Brain Jack
Catherine Fisher	Incarceron
Donna Gephart	How to Survive Middle School
Julia Golding	Dragonfly
Jason Henderson	Vampire Rising
David Klass	Stuck on Earth
Polly Shulman	The Grimm Legacy
Neal Shusterman	Bruiser
Jordan Sonnenblick	After Ever After
Francisco X Stork	The Last Summer of the Death Warriors
Deborah Wiles	Countdown
Richard Yancey	The Monstrumologist



Renner Band - by Curtis Schettler

The 2010 - 2011 school year was a great success for the band! Aside from the regular scheduled annual concerts, the band participated in many extra-curricular contests that provided an opportunity for the students to perform for a judge and receive constructive comments and ratings. A list of some of the bands accomplishments are listed below.

UIL Concert and Sightreading contest- Symphonic band - 1st division rating
UIL - Concert and Sightreading Contest - Concert 1 band - 1st division rating
SandyLake Band Contest - Concert 2 - 1st division rating
SandyLake Band Contest - Jazz Band - 1st division rating
Court Yard Theater Band Contest - Red Band - 1st division rating
Court Yard Theater Band Contest - Silver Band - 1st division rating

Individual accomplishments also include:

24 students participated in the All Region Band 160 students participated in the 7th and 8th grade Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Congratulations to all the Renner Band Students!

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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