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**5701 W. Parker Rd.
Plano, TX 75093**



RENNER ROUND-UP

A Renner PTA Publication

Volume XVIII, Issue 2

October 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 six 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 :
Anna Wageman

The Newsletter Goes Green We're saving trees and money

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST PRINTED ISSUE
OF THE RENNER ROUND-UP**



Beginning with our November issue, all future newsletters will be available electronically through Enews and posted on the Renner PTA website – Rennerpta.org. This initiative will give our families more current and timely information, and save our PTA thousands of dollars each year in printing and mailing costs.

To receive notifications that the newsletter is available, simply go to the Renner PTA website and request e-mail notifications or go to pisd.edu and sign up to receive Enews.

Newsletters for the remainder of the year will be available by the following dates: **November 3, December 15, February 16, April 12, and May 31.** A very limited number of hard copies of the newsletter will be available in the front office.

October/November 2011 Calendar

October

- 3 Report Cards
- 6 Principal's Coffee, 9:30am in the Renner Library
- 7 PISD School Board Meeting
- 10 PTA Board Meeting, 9:15am
- 20 Progress Reports
- 21 Parent-Teacher Conferences - Student Holiday
- 24 Student / Teacher Holiday
- 25-28** Red Ribbon Week
- 28** Career Day

November

- 1 Picture Retake Day
- 2 End of 2nd six weeks
Teacher Treats
- 4 Reflections entries due
PISD School Board Meeting, 7pm
- 6 Daylight savings
- 7 Girls Basketball Tryouts
- 10 Report Cards
- 14 PTA Board Meeting, 9:15am
PTA General Meeting, 10am
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday



Due to the nature of this class, textbooks were not issued as students will be exposed to multiple sources of information. Occasionally a student might need a textbook to complete an assignment. Students can request a text at any time. If you wish to have a home copy, please email your child's history teacher and a copy will be sent home.

Calendars and megaspores will be available for every unit. Websites to Assist Students: Plano ISD's Cyberweb: http://k-12.pisd.edu/cyberweb/ss/SS8_index.htm

math

The central objective for the first six weeks is to review the students' understanding of linear relationships and then to contrast linear patterns with nonlinear patterns. They will recognize linear and nonlinear patterns from verbal descriptions, tables, and graphs. Once they have recognized a pattern, they will describe the pattern by writing a linear or inverse variation equation. The equations generated by the students will enable them to solve problems and make decisions and predictions. The eighth grade math teachers, Mrs. Schlinkman, Mrs. Hennessy, and Mrs. Taglioli are looking forward to a wonderful year with the eighth grade students.

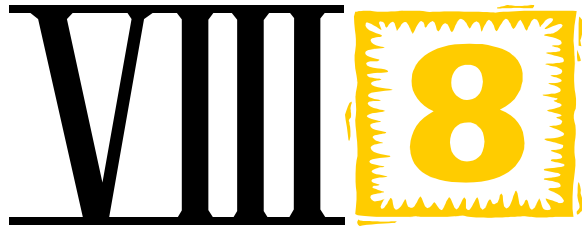
science

8th graders have a great year ahead of them! We will begin studying waves and making a concept map of the electromagnetic spectrum. We will be exploring the Universe by discussing its formation, examining life cycles of stars and the moon's importance to Earth, as well as exploring the important discoveries made by famous scientists such as Galileo, Copernicus, and Aristotle.

Honors Science

Check for the "Science Project and Science Fair Handbook" which lists intermediary due dates and explains the process of the independent research project in detail.

*Note: Please remember to check your child's agenda and help keep the science spiral organized. Refer to the calendar for dates of tests and quizzes



Grade

English/language arts

Students are busy reading and writing. The on level classes are reading short story selections such as *Flowers for Algernon*. The honors students are reading and analyzing the chilling mystery novel, *And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie. These units include vocabulary study, journal responses, characterization techniques, and the elements of fiction.

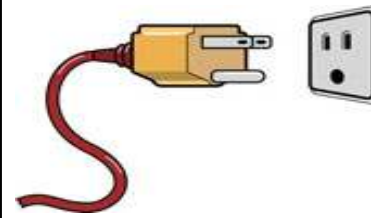
Mrs. Emmerich, Mrs. Rubenstein, and Ms. Williams are looking forward to a wonderful year with your sons and daughters as we prepare them for the “big time” of high school.

history

8th grade U.S. history is a study of the United States through 1877. The course focuses on colonization, the American Revolution, the formation and structure of U.S. government, the New Republic, Manifest Destiny and an expanding nation, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Currently, we are studying colonization of the U.S. The lessons in this unit are organized to help students understand the effects of geography on the development of colonial America. The main skill focus is making generalizations. Students analyze the reasons for exploration and the importance of political, economic, and social factors upon the formation of the thirteen colonies.

To begin the unit, students participate in an exciting computer simulation comparing early American colonization to space colonization. Students conclude the unit with their first essay of the year, reflecting on the themes of this unit – geography and economy of the thirteen original colonies.



ARE YOU CONNECTED TO RENNER?

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

Renner PTA E-mail Blast

The Renner PTA will keep you current with a weekly email blast. To sign up, go to the PTA website and enter your email address.

The Mustang Messenger

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

Renner PTA Website

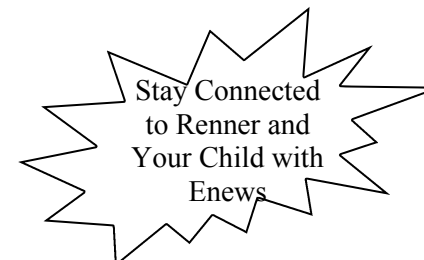
www.rennerpta.org will give you updated calendars and events going on at Renner. It will also give you a list of board members to contact if you have questions or would like to become more involved.

The Renner Activity Line

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

Parent Portal

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





The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Will They Pass The Test?

The eight words every student loves to hear: “you need to know this for the test.” For as long as there has been school, there have been tests. Even after we finish school, we face tests of different sorts. Instead of an end of the unit test, adults face tests in their work. It may take the form of a big presentation, a sales pitch, preparing a project to meet a deadline, or applying your knowledge on the spot to solve a problem. To be successful in your career, you have to apply your knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates your best ability. Most of the time when you prepare, you do well. When you fail to prepare and say that you’ll just wing it, you may not be so lucky. Given the importance of tests on a six weeks grade, preparing for tests is extremely important. There are a few things parents can do to help their child study for tests and learn the importance of preparation in future job tasks.

Use the Agenda: Adults use day planners, students use agendas. Teachers write assignments and future tests on the marker board each day. Talk with your child about copying the information into the agenda before every class.

Check the Agenda: Look at the assignments daily. Have conversations with your child about studying a little each night in preparation for bigger projects and tests.

Attend Tutorials: Teachers offer tutoring times before and after school. Your child attending will help them clarify their understanding and should help them perform better on tests. It also sends the message to teachers that they care about their grades. Get a pass from your teacher the day before you need to attend tutorials.

science

The seventh graders are enthusiastic about their “Bottle Biology” projects! The Terra-Aqua Columns are microhabitats that allow students to observe, analyze, and collect data on the abiotic and biotic factors existing within these “mini-ecosystems.” The students researched and designed their columns, and they are discovering how to collaboratively problem-solve to learn real science.

Honors Students: Please read the Science Project Guideline booklet with your honors student, and encourage your child to be apprised of the intermediary due dates for their science independent research project. Teachers will be spending class time teaching what the expectations are for the impending due date; teachers are also available during tutorials to answer questions and offer guidance.

texas history

In Texas history classes, students will begin their studies with a look at the geography, Native Americans, and exploration of Texas. The lessons in this unit are organized to help students understand the effects of geography on the development of Texas. Our year begins with an emphasis on the regions of Texas and their characteristics. Native Americans and their relationship to geography follow. Explorers from Europe and the first Spanish settlers are studied along with Spanish influences on Texas lifestyles. The main skill focus is communication (writing and reading). Primary sources are used to teach analysis of documents. Also, students will have the opportunity to write poetry, essays, and formal letters.





english

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 will be contemplating during 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 voice, organization, punctuation, capitalization, focus, pacing, and word choice 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.

Please reinforce good organization skills by asking your child to walk you through his/her binder and show you what we are studying. The English binder should be well organized in sections and contain only English assignments and handouts.

Two important spirals are placed in the binder. The STAR spiral (stuff to always remember) will be utilized for writing and literature. The sections included are: writing ideas, word lists and writers' craft, grammar, and literature. The second spiral is used to record daily reading and journal responses to reading.

We anticipate a year full of reading, writing, and thinking! Thank you for your support!



The Principal's Column, continued

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

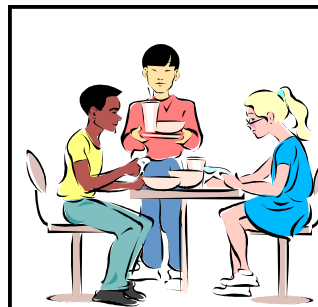
Daily Success: Help your child stay organized, complete homework, and experience success daily. It will help their self-confidence come test time.

Cornell Notes: Every child has been taught how to take Cornell notes. The Cornell note system asks students to divide their paper to take notes into two segments. On one side they write key points. On the other side they write questions or topics for review later. They are also encouraged to write a summary of the lecture that they can review prior to tests.

Peer Tutors: When studying for tests, sometimes a friend that understands the material can break down a difficult concept in kid-friendly language.

No Worries: Stressing over tests hurts performance. Prepare the best you can, and go into tests confident not stressed.

Reinforce the concept that hard work equals success. There are very few short cuts that will be effective long term. Help your child stay organized, break down bigger tasks into smaller segments, and review what they have learned each day. The payoff will come with good scores on tests.



Lunch Reminder

Parents we need your help!!

You may only provide lunch for your child. Students may not share lunch and parents can't bring pizza or desert for an entire table. We don't want you to waste money, so please help us stay in compliance with FMNV.



The President's Column

By Julie Myers, 2011-2012 Renner PTA President

Welcome to another great year at Renner Middle School. I hope everyone had a successful start to the new school year. It was fun to see so many returning faces at registration and exciting to welcome our new students and their families. Renner is a wonderful school full of dedicated and caring teachers and staff.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time this summer to work at registration. It isn't easy to start donating time before school has even begun. We couldn't have registered hundreds of families without you. A special thank you to **Susie Learmont** who was responsible for planning, organizing and running registration. Susie spent countless hours over the summer making sure that we were able to get our students registered. Thanks also to **Darcey Carter, Jeanne Koepke and Kim Brown** who handled cashiers, spirit wear and school supplies, respectively. A very special thank you to **Victoria Gobeli and Pam Spooner** who were instrumental in getting our new online registration site up and running. If your student needs additional school supplies or wants to purchase spirit wear, these are available at the school store, which is open Monday through Friday during lunch. You can send cash or a check payable to the Renner PTA with your student. If you are figuring out the cost beforehand, please don't forget to add sales tax!

Thank you also to **Lori Baum and Pam Spooner**. They worked both days at registration, collecting our student directory information and encouraging families to join the PTA, and to **Sherie Hammett** for selling so many ads in our directory. Thank you to all the families who joined the PTA. Your membership supports both the State and National PTA, who are advocates for all children, as well as the Renner PTA which continues to provide student and parent programs, funds for teacher grants, encourage participation in the arts, promote the joy of reading, foster school spirit and provide support to the Renner teachers, staff and students. If you have not yet joined the PTA, you can still do so by contacting Lori Baum at membership@rennerpta.org. We hope you will join the Renner PTA and show your support for our school; and don't forget, your membership entitles you to a copy of the student directory due out later this fall. Watch for details in the Mustang Messenger sent out by e-mail on Fridays for times the directory will be available to be picked up.

The problems in this unit focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. There are several real-life applications of these concepts, including cooking with recipes and dividing plots of land. Students should be bringing their weekly practice sheets home on Thursdays to complete if not finished in class. The practice sheets are an important tool in helping students to review and maintain knowledge and skills previously taught! Be sure to check your student's agenda to see what we're doing each day in class as well as any homework they need to complete.

science

Welcome to sixth grade science!

During the school year, your child will explore the human body, ocean ecosystems, natural resources, and relationships of objects in space.

We start our studies on human body systems. Students will investigate the structures & functions of the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems and engage in many hands-on lab experiences.

We expect all students to keep a science spiral, 5-subject notebook this year. It will be a record of their class activities, labs, and a perfect study guide at home.

We look forward to an exciting year in sixth grade science!

social studies

In Social Studies, our journey through world history starts out in the Middle East. Students are busy learning about ancient civilizations in the Fertile Crescent, as well as aspects of culture from the Middle East. In this unit students will learn what those characteristics are, and which are more powerful in defining this part of the world as a region. The students will finish the unit by studying that region's political boundaries, as well as some current issues involving cultural relationships in the Middle East. It is a great time to watch some world news and discuss pertinent events.



language arts

The 6th grade language arts program is off to a great start. This six-week study will focus on both the reading and writing of personal narratives. Reading biographies and autobiographies can help students better grasp and understand the lives and conflicts of others. Throughout this unit students will read personal narratives and write personal anecdotes. Instruction will be delivered in a student-centered, multi-tasked, hands-on environment through PowerPoint presentations, multiple writing opportunities, and a variety of reading experiences. The PACE language arts students will also be reading and writing narratives. In addition, the students will be introduced to the six basic elements of the Humanities.

The curriculum requires silent sustained reading (SSR) on most days, so the students will be required to bring something to read each day. Each team has a different library day, so they may check out books or bring them from home. **The 6th grade also offers students the chance to earn a double daily 100% each week by turning in a log sheet on Tues.** They should read for 100 minutes, write a short summary, and have it signed by an adult.

math

Our 6th grade math students started out the year with the book "Shapes and Designs", in which students explore important properties of polygons. Our second unit is "Bits and Pieces II". This unit is a continuation of the first book introduced in fifth grade.



The President's Column, continued

Before school began, the Renner PTA hosted a luncheon to welcome the Renner Teachers and Staff back to school. It is so nice to let them know how much we appreciate all they do for our children. Thanks to **Sheryl Pidgeon, Julie Kabel** and their committee for this wonderful luncheon.

It was great to have so many parents attend the PTA Welcome Back Coffee on the first day of school. Thank you to **Sam Clement and Masae Rinkliff** for preparing our coffee and snacks. Parents heard from our principal, Mr. McLaughlin, about ways to make the middle school years very successful. We also heard from PISD School Board President, Tammy Richards.

The Renner PTA offers many opportunities to be involved. If you haven't turned in a volunteer form, please contact Susie Learmont at volunteers@rennerpta.org or pick one up in the front office.

I would like to extend one last thank you to Mr. McLaughlin and all the Renner Staff for a great start this year. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful team who are passionate about preparing middle school students for the future. You will have an opportunity to ask questions about the school at the next principal's coffee on **Thursday, October 6th** at 9:30 a.m.

The PTA is looking forward to a great year. You can keep up to date on school and PTA happenings by visiting our website at www.rennerpta.org. There is also an activity line at Renner that is updated every Sunday night for the upcoming week. All activities are included. Just call the Renner main number 469-752-5800, then push 9. If you have any questions or suggestions for the PTA please feel free to contact me at president@rennerpta.org or 972-672-4327.



PTA Membership

Renner PTA

It's Not Too Late to Join our Team!



By becoming a member of the Renner PTA, you can become an important part of helping to ensure we provide Renner students and their families with programs, information and opportunities to build a great school and even better students. While we would love to have you volunteer in the school, volunteering is not required for being a PTA member. **You can join the PTA** online at www.rennerpta.org or by picking up a form at the front office. Cost of membership is:

Two Adult Memberships	\$21.00*
One adult Membership	\$16.50*
Additional student directories	\$ 5.00

We look forward to having YOU as a member of the Renner Team!

*Membership in the PTA includes a copy of the Renner Student Directory as well as access to State and National PTAs websites, legislative news and discounts at major retailers, hotels, insurance companies, airlines and attractions.

For more information, please contact Lori Baum, VP –Membership at: membership@rennerpta.org.

Box Tops for Education

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. Also, you can ask your family such as your aunts, uncles, and cousins and see if they might help you join the cause.



Another way to help is by creating an account on My Coke Rewards. Any points you earn from entering product codes can be donated to Renner Middle School. Thanks for your help!

Lady Mustang Athletics



A special thanks to all the girls who gave their best efforts throughout a tough volleyball try-out process. Your attitudes and effort were appreciated by all the coaches. Congratulations to those who made the teams and will be representing Renner on the volleyball court this season.

Lady Mustang Basketball Tryouts

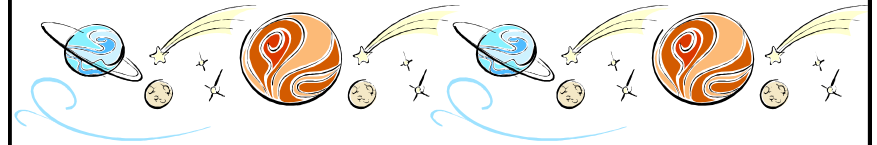
November 8th-11th
(Physicals are due by October 31st)
8th - 7:00-8:15AM
7th - 3:45-5:15PM



- 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.

Kelly Brown
Renner Middle School
Athletics, Health & Leadership
469-752-5879
Kelly.Brown@pisd.edu

Science Fair



Science Fair projects for 7th and 8th graders will be due **Thursday, December 1, 2011**. If you are able to help with Science Fair set-up on November 30, check-in on December 1, or break-down on December 3, please e-mail Masae Rinkliff at science@rennerpta.org.

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS

Before your child can enter 7th grade, he or she is required by state law to have the following vaccines:

- **TDaP** within the last 5 years. This is a tetanus booster with the important pertussis component.
- **Meningitis (MCV4)**
- **Varicella #2.** This is the chicken pox booster vaccine. It is not required if the student has had the chicken pox disease. This should be documented on the shot record or the parent can sign a form indicating the date of disease.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO OBTAIN THESE VACCINES. YOUR CHILD WILL NOT ENTER 7TH GRADE WITHOUT THEM.
CONTACT MISS GRACE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
SEND UPDATED SHOT RECORDS ANYTIME.

Environmental

Did you know that Americans generate 243 million tons of waste per year and only recycle about one third? Did you know that it makes good economic fiscal sense to reduce, reuse and recycle? So let's recycle, it's a win-win: protect our environment and save money! Plano makes it easy for us to recycle.



They offer "single-stream" recycling. Single-stream means everything goes into one bin: plastics #1-#7, newspaper, aluminum cans, corrugated cardboard and all types of paper. Each classroom and office area at Renner is equipped with a blue recycling bin. If you need an additional bin or have any questions, please contact me.

If you are looking for ideas of how you can make a difference check out the www.livegreeninplano.org site. It's a valuable on-line resource. Another wonderful website is www.takecareoftexas.org. It features information on easy computer recycling, how to get kids (and parents) involved in green efforts, and even a virtual house tour with tips on conservation inside and out.

A new wave of recycling apps and games for smart-phones, iPads and Android tablet computers is creating a culture where recycling is second nature. Find an app for you and have fun learning how to recycle!

Remember every little thing you do counts! What will you do? Check out the article to your right, and contact me with any ideas you may have for the 2011/12 school year, and let's make a difference.

Brigitte Petersen environmental@rennerpta.org



From the Library...

Welcome to the Renner Middle School Library!

Renner Library – Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

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 ten cents 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 ten cents per page.

How do I access library resources from home?

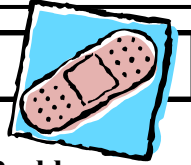
- Go to the Plano ISD website <http://www.pisd.edu/>
- Click on the "for Students" tab on the top right
- Click on "Library Resources" under the list of student links
- Click on the "Library Resources Website" link
- This should open a new Library Resources page, click on "Renner"

Feel free to contact us with any additional questions!

Shana Nowlin, Librarian: 469-752-5827

Shana.Nowlin@pisd.edu

Nurse's Notes...



An Observation About Health Concerns / Problems

When parents complete the emergency form either online or in paper form, you are asked to identify any pertinent health concerns. The three questions asked are: "List all Current Health Problems or Dietary Restrictions, List all allergies, and List all medication taken / treatments (taken at home and school." Many parents take the opportunity to complete that section which lets school personnel know if there are any special considerations that we should make at school for that student. What we do find across the grade levels is that the amount of information offered by parents dwindles significantly at the secondary level. The district nurses have discussed this and wonder if parents get so used a their student having a particular medical condition that they no longer consider it a "problem." With the challenges of completing the form online, it is also easier to just check the box that says "No Known Health Issues."

The emergency form is a lifeline for your child. Not only does it give us pertinent contact information, it is an important treasure of information if there is a medical emergency or even a lockdown or evacuation. As the nurse, I maintain a data base of important medical information about each student. That information is shared as appropriate with each student's teachers. We gain information through the emergency form, from the nurse at their previous school, and sometimes directly from the parents or students. What I find is that I usually have a lot of medical information on file for some students, yet the updated emergency card fails to mention it. Since that form may become very important in a true emergency, it is helpful if it is as complete as possible.

I urge all parents to go online to the parent portal and recheck the information you have provided in the medical section of the emergency card. If you add any information, I will receive a notice that there has been an update and I can reprint the form for our use here. If the student had a particular problem in the past such as asthma, seizures or serious allergies, etc. you can add that in and indicate that it was a previous problem and how long ago.

Once you have updated the form, you are encouraged to access the PISD website at pisd.edu, go to the "parent" tab and then to School Health Services to access the Action Plans and medication forms that are needed to care for your child who has a serious condition.

As always, if you any questions about the way we manage health concerns at school, please contact the nurse, Judie Grace, at 469-752-5809 or at judith.grace@pisd.edu.

Renner Student Directories

Directories are scheduled to be delivered before the end of October. Details will be emailed through the PTA email new blasts. Watch your email!

Sign up for weekly the email news blasts at www.rennerpta.org

Casseroles



If you missed the casserole table at Schedule Pick Up, it's not too late to sign up to make a casserole for a Renner staff member next Spring during Staff Appreciation Week. They love casserole day!! If you would be willing to help, kindly contact Michelle Stapleton at Jim.Michelle@att.net . Thank you!!

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.

Renner Middle School PTA is proud to announce

Reflections 2011 – 2012

Theme: “Diversity Means”

The Reflections theme for 2011 – 2012 is “Diversity Means”. Use your imagination to create a film, song, artwork (11 x 17), photograph, poem, short story or dance routine. Maybe you will see something or do something that makes you think ‘diversity’. Make sure to **reflect the theme in your work**.

You may enter as many times as you like in as many categories as you like. Rules & forms are available at www.txpta.org. Remember entry deadline is November 4, 2011 and must include an official entry form.

Questions??? Please contact Renner PTA’s Arts in Education chairman, Nadia Rahman, at reflections@rennerpta.org or (214) 448-1555.



Football

Mustang

Sign
Decal

Sign
Decal

Sign
Decal

NAME ON DECAL _____

\$12.00 each plus tax = \$13.00

total # _____ \$ _____

NAME ON SIGN _____

\$40.00 each plus tax=\$43.30

total # _____ \$ _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION _____

Make checks payable to the Renner PTA.
Return order to the Renner Office.
For questions, contact signs@rennerpta.org

Show your **RENNER PRIDE** with personalized yard signs and car decals!!

Available for all Renner activities, clubs and events, these sturdy signs and decals are designed to last throughout the middle school years.

PARENT/STUDENT NAMES _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Band

instru-
ment

**Sign
Decal**



Cheer

**Sign
Decal**

Choir

**Sign
Decal**

Club

**Sign
Decal**



**Basket-
ball**

**Sign
Decal**

**Nat'l
Junior
Honor
Society**

**Sign
Decal**

**Orchestra
instru-
ment**

**Sign
Decal**



Tennis

**Sign
Decal**



**Volley-
ball**

**Sign
Decal**

OFFICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Copy Room

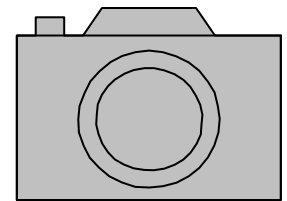
We are looking for a few good volunteers to help out with making copies in the office. We staff the copy room on Wednesday Mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and Thursday Afternoons from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Counselor's Office

Only have a little time to spare? The Counselor's office is looking for people to help out on Wednesdays from 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm.

Interested? Contact Deborah Leshefsky at office@rennerpts.org to sign up today!

**Yearbook pictures
and
photographers
needed!**



Fellow photographers, 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 in color in the yearbook.

We will get back with you on how to upload them directly to the Josten's website. In the meantime, feel free to put the pictures on a CD and send them to Haley Slater at Renner, Lynn Blomquist, or put them in the office box.

If you are interested in being assigned a group to follow for the year (your child plays orchestra and you know you will be at the events), please let Lynn Blomquist know at lynnblomquist@me.com. We want to make sure all events and organizations are represented in the yearbook. The more photographers, the better!

WHY IS THE JOINING PTA IMPORTANT?

The #1 reason to join the PTA is to support your school and your student. It's not about volunteering.... It's about supporting!

Renner's PTA is dedicated to making our school the best possible environment for educating our students. By becoming a member, you become a part of the largest child advocacy organization in the state with more than 1,300 members from Renner and over 600,000 members across Texas.

Your membership dues are used to provide outstanding programs and services for the students at Renner. Here are just a few things the PTA does at Renner:

- Provide an agenda to each student
- Bring in speakers and programs to educate and inform students, teachers and parents
- Provide funding for snacks for afterschool tutorials
- Provide funding to teachers and staff to purchase special wish list items
- Maintain, staff and supply Renner's school store
- Sponsor two social events a year for the students to enjoy some games, food & music

Join Us!

Membership is open to anyone concerned with the education, health and welfare of children and youth. Your support is important to us, and **100% participation** will help ensure that we can provide Renner students and their families with programs, information and opportunities for a great year.

Get Involved

Get involved for your children and for your community. Studies have shown that membership in PTA provides your child and other children around you with a greater

SHOW YOUR MUSTANG PRIDE!

Have you seen the newest Renner Spirit Wear?



This art is meant to look as placed in exact proportion to actual shirts ordered.

We have new t-shirts, tie-dye shirts, athletic shirts, gym shorts, drawstring duffel bag and sweatshirts! Get your spirit wear today. All of our Renner Mustang spirit wear items are available now in the school store. Stop by the school store anytime during lunch (11am-1pm) to buy a new sweatshirt, t-shirt and more! All prices include tax.

- T-shirts \$12**
- Tie Dye T-shirts \$12**
- Athletic Shirt \$15**
- Pullover Hoodie \$25**
- Girls Shorts \$15**
- Boys Shorts \$15**
- Gym bags \$5**

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

For more information, please email Jeanne Koepke, Spirit Wear Coordinantor at shirts@rennerpta.org.

Teacher Treats say Thank You!

Thank you to the many Renner parents who signed up at Registration for Teacher Treats!!!

This is a great and easy way to say "thanks" to all the terrific teachers and staff at Renner.

Teacher Treats are donated by the Renner PTA and a group of incredible volunteers at the end of each grading period or every six weeks. Fall Teacher Treats Days are September 23, November 2 and December 13.



It is so easy to participate. The treats can be homemade or store bought. Treats can be sweet (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, coffee cakes), or salty (chips and dips, pretzels, crackers, meat and cheese), or healthy (fruit, veggie trays). The teachers love to have a wide variety. Just drop off your treat at the front office by 8:30am labeled "Teacher Treat" and we will take it from there. Disposable containers would be best, but if you leave a serving dish you need returned, just put your name on the bottom and we will wash it and leave it at the front desk by the end of the day for you to pick up. You may also send your treat with your student as they come to school in the morning. We will take it from there. We decorate the Teachers' Lounge based on the season and create a yummy-looking spread with your donated treats. We will also display the names of the team members who participate each time. You do not have to participate every six weeks, just whenever is convenient for your schedule.

We will send out an email reminding our volunteers a week before the upcoming treat day. Just respond to let us know you are bringing something and what it might be. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of treats to feed over 110 teachers and staff! If you are interested in joining the Teacher Treats team for the upcoming school year, contact Maggie Peck or Lori Gropper at treats@rennerpta.org. We would love to have you join us in saying "Thanks"!

chance of achieving in school. As a PTA member, you are more likely to be an informed, involved parent. Learn ways to keep children safe and involved in school. PTA is the place to gain that knowledge.

Benefits

PTA provides opportunities to meet with others who have the same interests as you. By sharing common concerns, you will feel more empowered. Being part of PTA connects families and schools and results in parental support and makes school involvement easier. PTA also provides educational opportunities. From local-level parent education meetings to the Texas PTA Annual Convention, PTA encourages learning and the sharing of accomplishments, interests and concerns. Ultimately, PTA provides the opportunity to serve, to volunteer and to contribute to the welfare of all children, because children represent our future. PTA will introduce you to a great variety of new activities and opportunities to share your special talents. PTA will give you opportunity, not only to impact your local community, but to have input in major legislative and policy issues affecting children throughout the state. **Membership gives you a voice.**

Exercise your right to vote. Get involved. PTA members in Texas receive the following member discounts:

- La Quinta discount rate
- 3% off auto insurance from Nationwide Insurance
- 5% - 10% off Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- 4 to 6% off Aflac supplemental accident insurance
- 5% off Southwest Vacations
- 15% off admission at Schlitterbahn, Fiesta Texas, and SeaWorld.
- 5% off online purchases at BarnesandNoble.com
- Discounts on selected Sharp Electronics products
- 14% discount at T-Mobile
- Monthly specials and 7% off at Dell

As a Renner PTA member you'll also receive a free student directory. For more information, you can contact Lori Baum at: membership@rennerpta.org

SAGE ~Special and Gifted Education



If your student participates in the Special Education, PACE (Gifted and Talented Program) or is simply an exceptional diverse learner, you need to plug in to the SAGE Community!

SAGE is a valuable resource that will provide you with information about many community-wide events that may be of particular interest to you and your family. The PTA of Plano SAGE Committee will continue to offer the **SENG Program: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted** – a series of parent discussion groups, and will also be presenting **Alphabet Soup – the A.B.C.'s of Advanced Academics**. This program will clarify the difference between PACE, Pre-AP, AP, and IB Programs. Plans are also underway for Inclusive Schools Week, our next Summer Expo in February, and a fun talent show for Special Needs Students in January.

If you would like to receive e-blasts about SAGE News and Upcoming Events, send an email to sage@planopta.org and indicate what topics you would like to receive information about:

SPECIAL EDUCATION GIFTED EDUCATION
BOTH

Let us know if your child is in PPCD, Elementary, Middle, or High School

Or you can complete the SAGE Enrollment Form in this newsletter and return to the front office at Renner to the attention of Amy Mitchell, SAGE Chairman for RMS. Questions can be directed to sage@rennerpta.org.

CHECK OUT SAGE OF PISD on Facebook and the SAGE Website at www.planoptasage.org for more information!

Plano ISD Council of PTAs SAGE Committee ENROLLMENT FORM

This form is for parents and educators whose children are in the special education program, gifted and talented or who are interested in joining our database for information regarding the diverse learner. This enrollment enters your e-mail into the SAGE database only for announcements of speakers, school and community events relating to diverse learning.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED WITHIN THE PAST 3 YEARS

Today's DATE: _____

Circle one: New Member Member Information Update

SAGE DATABASE REGISTRY

Contact information for SAGE Communications only:

PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY IN INK

PARENT NAME: _____

Email: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

Family Information:

Child's Name Grade School Campus Special Needs Gifted & Talented

I want to receive emails regarding PISD and community events for (please check one):

_____ **Special Education** topics only

_____ **Gifted and Talented** topics only

_____ **BOTH** special needs and gifted and talented topics

SUPPORT GROUP INQUIRY/REQUEST

If you are interested in meeting other parents/teachers for a support group, please go to the SAGE website (listed below) to see what groups are available to date. If no group is available in your interest area, we suggest resources such as www.meetup.com. The SAGE committee can assist you in creating a support group if desired.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact your local PTA SAGE Chairperson at sage@rennerpta.org or your PTA President to ask how you can get involved. Or, contact us at our website www.planopta.org/sage.htm.

Please return this completed form to your local PTA SAGE Chairperson or PRESIDENT (by bringing it in to the Renner front office).