

A PUBLICATION OF
THE RENNER PTA

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

RENNER ROUND-UP



VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER, 2011

8th Grade Academic Conferences

The eighth grade academic conferences will be scheduled January 23 through February 2. The Renner counselors will give an informative presentation about high school requirements. Parents and students are invited to attend a ninety minute group session where a tentative four-year plan is completed as well as online enrollment for ninth grade. These are important decisions for your child. Your attendance is appreciated. If you are unable to attend, your child will still meet with their counselor. Parents will receive a letter by mail with their conference date and time.

The Shepton counselors will be visiting Renner on January 11 to give a student presentation. They will be discussing class options available to ninth graders. Your child will bring home a course catalog describing classes taught at Shepton. Please take the time to read through the catalog. You are welcome to bring the course catalog to your student's academic conference. The counselors are eager to help assist with academic planning.

Second Semester Schedules

If needed, students may pick up a copy of their second semester schedule on the first day back from Winter Break. Counselors will be located in the cafeteria.

The counseling department wants to wish you and yours a relaxing holiday break. See you next year.



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

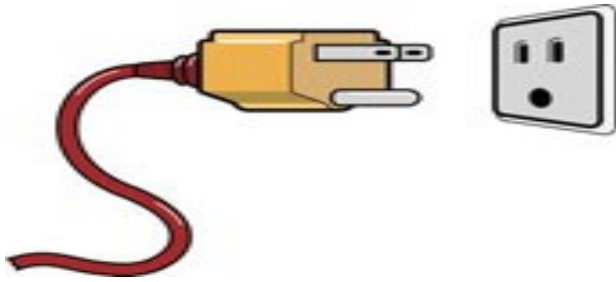
January	
3	Students return to school
9	Spelling Bee 3:30 in the library
11	6th Gr. Science Fair
12	Geography Bee 3:30 in the library
16	No School
28	Ski Plano: PISD Event
27	Last day to order yearbooks

February

3	6th & 7th Gr Registration Cards come home
17	6th & 7th Gr Student Registration Cards Due
23	Spring Pictures
23	6th Gr registers online for courses
24	7th Gr registers online for courses
27	Principal's Coffee, 9:30am
27	Renner Round Table for incoming 5th Graders

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			



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 enews 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.

**Stay Connected to
Renner and Your
Child with Enews**





The Principal's Column

By Bill McLaughlin, Renner Middle School Principal

Service to Others, Benefits for Middle School Students

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” - Albert Schweitzer

One part of going through middle school is that the focus for your child suddenly becomes very much about the world revolving around them, and only them. This message gets reinforced on TV, music, and movies. It is very easy sometimes to feel that we have lost the message that when you think about others and doing something good for them, good things come back to you as well.

I was thinking about the idea of service to others as I listened to the descriptions of the individuals who had been selected to receive the PTA Lifetime Member Award. The descriptions of these people painted a picture of people who give of their time, energy, and talents so that others will benefit. While these people are extraordinary for their dedication to others, I think there is a lesson and message that we can share with our children.

The first message is that you don't have to do something extraordinary to be of service. The second message for our kids is that you feel better about yourself when you help others first. Helping others can be as small as caring enough about other people to reach out, be kind, and ask about them personally. Edmund Burke once said, “Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.” At the other end of the spectrum, I have seen middle school students at Renner build an outdoor eating area for students, volunteer to tutor, work with young students dealing with illness, and organize fundraisers for worthy causes, just to name a few examples. The point is, that it doesn't matter if the gesture is large or small, getting your child to do something for someone else, without expecting anything in return, will help them in ways they never expected.

My experience in working with students that volunteer matches the national statistics about their grades. Students that volunteer and serve others do better in school. This is because they have a sense of accomplishment and the feeling that they have done something that made a difference. These positive experiences and good feelings that are gained from this type of life experience carry over to aspects of their own lives. Grades are just one area where that self-confidence gained from helping others benefits them personally.

We are all busy, and sometimes it doesn't feel like there is enough time to do anything else besides take care of the things in our own life. While this is true, getting your child in the habit of serving and volunteering at school, your family, non-profit organization, in your neighborhood or community will benefit them as well. There is great joy in a middle school student when they see that smile they put on someone else's face. In return they benefit as well. Help your child find ways to be of service to others. Let them use their passion, skills, talents, and energy to do something good. The service they give to others will benefit them in ways they never knew.



The President's Column

By Julie Myers, 2011-2012 Renner PTA President

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

The volunteers at Renner were extremely busy in November and December. First, I would like to thank **Nadia Rahman** for coordinating a wonderful Reflections Contest at Renner. We had many outstanding entries from our talented students. Great job and lots of hard work! The Winter Luncheon for the teachers was held on December 9th. **Sheryl Pidgeon and Julie Kabel** did a wonderful job. I know the teachers and staff really enjoyed it. **Leslie Hyne** did an outstanding job with the Toys for Tots drive for the holidays. Thank you to all the Renner families who participated in this outreach project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The Science Fair was a huge success thanks to the efforts of **Masae Rinkliff and Mrs. Gunnels**. Thank you to **Sam Clement** who provided food for the PISD Holiday Luncheon at the Administration Building on behalf of Renner. Once again **Maggie Peck and Lori Gropper** provided an unbelievable Teacher Treat Day. You could smell the goodies when you walked in the front office. Thank you to all of the volunteers who donated items for that day.

There are many events coming up in the next month or two. The calendar in this newsletter shows all events, but I wanted to highlight a few. **The Renner Roundtable will be on Monday February 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the library and is for incoming 6th grade parents.** If you have a 5th grader right now or know one please let them know about this program. We will have 8th graders and some staff here to answer any questions that parents or students might have. It is open to parents and students who will be attending Renner next year. This will be our fourth year for this program and it has been a huge success. **We will have a Principal's Coffee on Thursday, February 27 at 9:30 a.m.** This is a great time to connect with some Renner parents and faculty. It is very informative and has a time for questions and answers.

The Renner PTA has provided many wonderful items for the teachers through the Teacher Grant Program. The teachers and staff apply for these grants. They are programs or instructional aides for all of our students that the teachers and staff feel will help them enrich the education experience for the Renner students. There is a complete list of these grants on Page 8 of this issue.

I want to say thank you to all the PTA Board members for the 2011 – 2012 school year. You are an incredible team. The PTA Board is beginning to look for new members for the 2012 – 2013 team. If you would like to join this dynamic and uplifting team, please contact me at president@rennerpta.org or Jill Van Mater at parliamentarian@Rennerpta.org. Being a part of the PTA team will provide you an excellent opportunity to make a difference in the lives of all Renner students and another great way to get more connected at Renner. Please read the interest finder which is included in this newsletter that provides a brief description of each position and consider which position best suits your interests, talents and time constraints. We are waiting for YOU!

As always, please contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Julie Myers
Renner PTA President
President@rennerpta.org

Teacher Appreciation

Renner Winter Luncheon

On Friday, December 9, 2011, as we celebrate the holiday season, we delighted our wonderful Renner Staff with our annual Teacher Appreciation Winter Luncheon. The luncheon was catered by Maggiano's at Willow Bend.

MAGGIANO'S
LITTLE ITALY®

6001 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX 75093 972 781-0776

We would like to thank Mr. Roy Davis, Maggiano's General Manager, and Ms. Meredith Wilson, Delivery Sales Coordinator.

In addition to this fabulous food, we delighted our amazing Renner Staff with drawings for items generously donated by:

Maggiano's "Little Italy"

6001 West Park Blvd
Plano, TX 75093

Six, \$10.00 gift cards

Walmart Superstore Plano

1700 Dallas Pkwy
Plano, TX 75093

\$25.00 gift card donation
(Used to purchase 7 beautiful Poinsettias)

Home Depot

6200 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 75093

10 beautiful Poinsettias

Michael's Plano

801 W. 15th Street
Plano, TX 75093

Decorated 15 beautiful Poinsettias

Gazebo Burger

6009 W. Parker Road Ste 165
Plano, TX 75093

Four, \$10.00 gift cards



Teacher Appreciation

Super Target

2200 Dallas Pkwy
Plano, TX 75093

Three, \$10.00 gift cards

Whiskey-Cake Restaurant

3601 Dallas Pkwy
Plano, TX 75093

One, \$25.00 gift card

Blue Mesa Grill

8200 Dallas Pkwy
Plano, TX 75024

Four, \$18.00 Sunday Bruch gift cards

Baker Brothers

6009 W. Parker Road, STE 125
Plano, TX 75093

Six, "Any Meal You Want" gift cards

Stan's Grill on the Parkway

3645 Dallas Pkwy STE 561
Plano, TX 75093

\$25 gift card

To the many Plano businesses that made these generous donations, we are most grateful. Home Depot, Walmart, Target and Michaels; your collaborative gifts to our staff created a joyous atmosphere filled with elegantly decorated poinsettias. Gift cards provided by Baker Brothers, Blue Mesa, Gazebo Burger, Maggiano's at Willow Bend, Stan's Grill on the Parkway, and Whiskey-Cake Restaurant were unexpected surprises that delighted 35 fabulous Renner Staff. Please accept our sincere thanks for your desire to support our community by working with us to make this extraordinary luncheon possible.

We also want to thank all the Renner volunteers and the members of the Renner PTA for sponsoring this luncheon. Our teachers and staff work so hard and it was a wonderful ending to the first half of the year to see them enjoy this beautifully decorated and delicious buffet.

Your time and effort help make our Plano schools the best they can be. Have a great holiday season and a Happy New Year to come in 2012!

Julie Kabel and Sheryl Pidgeon
Teacher Appreciation co-chairs



PTA Teacher Grants

PROGRAM TITLE	TEACHER	COST
Math Club (puzzles, games, etc.)	Sharilyn Garrett	\$ 317.10
Leveled Readers from Oxford University Press for ESL	Lori Rough	200.00
Science Motivators and Supplies	Ellen Hurley	300.00
Scholastic Scope Magazine	Lani Hughes	656.25
Positive Behaviors Interventions & Supports	Matt Endsley	800.00
Spanish New Curriculum (resources - manipulatives)	Gloria Pienaar	299.37
US History	Libby DeLeon	1,000.00
8th Grade Math Graphing Calculators	Anne Schlinkman	380.40
Centralized Structured Classroom	Elizabeth Cunningham	332.00
Voices: An Oral History of November 22, 1963	Sara Andrade	875.00
8th Grade Field Trip to Science Museum & Hall of State at Fair Park	DeLeon/Austin	3,500.00
Total PTA Grants Awarded		\$ 8,660.12

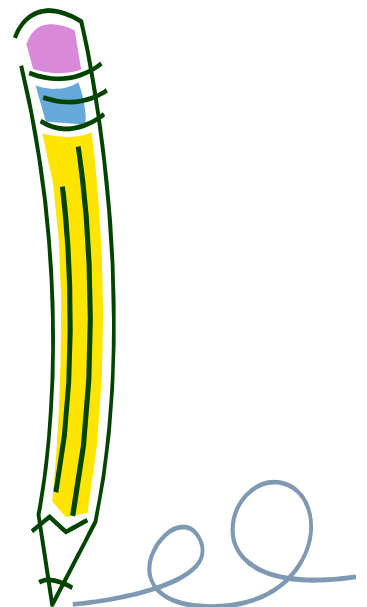
Visit the Renner School Store

Lost your pen or pencil?

Just want something fun and different?

Check out the great school supply items at the School Store. We have scented pencils and highlighters, erasers, pencil sharpeners and other cool novelties. Most items are under \$1!

Remember, the store is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during lunch for the 2nd semester of the school year. Proceeds from the store benefit the programs and grants sponsored by the Renner PTA.





Renner Middle School PTA

Reflections 2011 – 2012 Results

Theme: “Diversity Means”

The results are in for this year Reflections program, ‘Diversity Means’, and Renner students did quite well. Congratulations to all those who participated in this year’s Reflections program.

Purvi Contractor

6th, Award of Merit

Shreya Agarwala

6th, Award of Merit

Miracle Smith

7th, Award of Merit

Emily Eppig

7th, Award of Merit

Eric Chen

6th, Award of Merit

Nirali Thakor

8th, Award of Excellence

Natasha Rahman

6th, Award of Excellence

Eric Chen

6th, Award of Excellence

Andrew Gu

7th, Award of Excellence

Varun Kohli

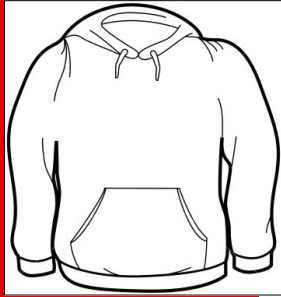
6th, Award of Excellence

Varun Kohli

6th, Award of Excellence

Students who received an Award of Excellence will be invited to the Council awards ceremony in April. Students who attend the ceremony will have their names announced and walk across a stage to receive their ribbon(s). You will receive your invitations in March 2012.

Show Your Mustang Pride



The weather is getting cooler so it's time to purchase a Renner Pullover Sweatshirt. All of our Renner Mustangs spirit wear items are available now in the school store. Don't forget that Tuesdays are Spirit Day so show your school spirit! Stop by the school store anytime during lunch (11 am-1pm) to buy a new sweatshirt, t-shirt or more! All prices include tax.

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 coordinator at shirts@rennerpta.org. or call at 214-458-9812.

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



Renner Supports Toys for Tots

During the last couple of weeks, Renner students and their families supported the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program with a New Toy Drive. The Toys for Tots Program collects new, unwrapped toys from October through December each year, and delivers the toys to less fortunate children in our community. I am happy to report that the New Toy Drive was a success! We received many donations, which will truly make a difference for children in our community during this Holiday Season. Thank you to all who participated!

We will have another Community Outreach project after the Winter Break. Please look for the details in upcoming e-mails from the Renner PTA.

Thanks again for all of your help!

Leslie Hyne
Community Outreach Coordinator



Teacher Treats say Thank You!

By Maggie Peck & Lori Gropper



Thank you to the many Renner parents who donated during the first semester for Teacher Treat day!!! The staff loved every bite! Our next Teacher Treat date is Thursday, February 16, so mark your calendars! And a BIG thank you in advance!

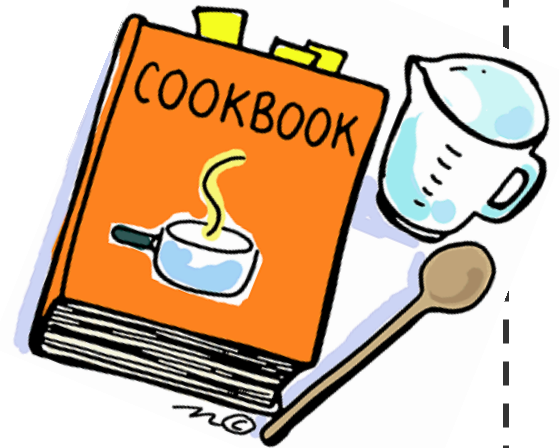
It is so easy to participate. The treats can be homemade or store bought. Treats can be sweet (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, coffee cakes), or salty (chips and dips, pretzels, crackers, meat and cheese, or healthy (fruit, veggie trays). The teachers love to have a wide variety. Just drop off your treat at the front office by 8:30 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 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"!

*Our next
Teacher
Treat date
is
Thursday,
February
16th*

Casserole volunteers needed

We have an amazing staff at Renner!! Show them your care by providing one (or more!) of the staff members with a casserole during Staff Appreciation Week. If you have not already signed up to bring a casserole on May 9th, it's not too late. Please contact Michelle Stapleton at casseroles@rennerpta.org. If you don't like to cook, we will have a vendor available to order from! More details (including staff assignments) will be provided to all casserole volunteers in late January/early February.



PTA Life Members

Congratulations to Renner's 2011-2012 TEXAS PTA LIFE MEMBERS

The Texas PTA Life Membership Award is one of the highest honors that is presented to individuals for their outstanding service to children and youth. A life membership recognizes those who have given of their time and ability in the interest of young people in Texas. The Renner PTA is proud to recognize our newest Life Members:

Kim Brown
Judith Grace
Sheryl Pidgeon
Leigh Ann Thompson



Science Fair News

We are so proud of all of our Renner Science Fair participants!

Congratulations to the following students for winning awards! All 1st and 2nd place winners have qualified to represent Renner in both the PISD District Science Fair and the Dallas Regional Science Fair.



Honorable Mention	2nd Place	1st Place
Kate Clement	Jarod Stone	Tiasha Joarder
Noah Goble	Parakh Jaggi	Nirali Thakor
Aakriti Gaur	Rachel Friedman	
Nadja Marshall	Jay Anand	Grand Prize
Connor Digan	Ryan Pearlman	Nirali Thakor
Ethan Starr		
Sohan Date		
Erin Seals		
Emma Cussatt		

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE!



If you have not bought a yearbook for your child, now is the time to do it! The yearbook is \$30.00. You can order a yearbook online at josten-yearbooks.com OR you can send your child to Ms. Slater in room 417 to get an order form. **The deadline for ordering a yearbook is January 27th**, but why wait?? Order one now, so you don't have to worry about it later!!

Want to see YOUR child in the yearbook? Send pictures of your children participating in Renner events, activities, organizations, etc. to Ms. Slater. You can send pictures via email to haley.slater@pisd.edu or you can send them to school with your child to give to Ms. Slater via photo cd or jump drive. The more pictures, the better the yearbook! Thank you for all of your help and support in creating a great Renner yearbook!

The deadline for ordering a yearbook is January 27th

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.

Officer & Chairman Volunteer Interest Form 2012 - 2013 School Year

The seven officer positions to be recommended by the nominating committee and elected at the March 5th General Membership Meeting are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, 4th Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President appoints the remaining Executive Board positions of Historian and Parliamentarian. Once the officers are in place, they will begin the process of appointing the Chairmen for Standing and Special Committees for the 2012 – 2013 school year. The duties of the PTA Officers and Chairmen are briefly described below. For a more complete description, please refer to the Renner PTA by-laws posted at www.rennerpta.org.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please complete this form and return it to Renner, attention: Jill Van Mater, Parliamentarian, by February 1st to be included for consideration. Please contact Jill Van Mater at parliamentarian@rennerpta.org if you have any questions about the election process or job descriptions.

PTA Member Name _____ Phone _____

Student(s) at Renner: (2012-2013 school year)

Name _____ Grade _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Grade _____ Name _____ Grade _____

OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

____ **Fourth V.P.—Membership** Responsible for promoting membership in PTA as well as completing and issuing membership cards. Supports Directory chairman and chairs committee to select PTA life members.

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

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

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

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

Officer & Chairman Volunteer Interest Form 2012 - 2013 School Year

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

____ **Cultural Fusion Chairman** Promotes cultural inclusiveness among the Renner students, communicates cultural events in the community in the Renner Round UP publication and on website.

____ **Environmental Chairman** Responsible for the promotion and participation in environmental awareness programs including the PTA's EPA poster contest and Environmental Club.

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

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

____ **Publicity Chairman** Responsible for the promotion and publicity, in coordination with PISD, of Renner Middle School student and PTA activities and events through the news media and website.

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

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

____ **SAGE Chairman** Acts as liaison between parents with gifted and special needs children and the PTA. Promotes awareness of community events and programs for the families at Renner.

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

____ **Science Fair Chairman** Work with Renner staff member responsible for school Science Fair and enlist any volunteers that may be needed.

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

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

Continued on Page 16

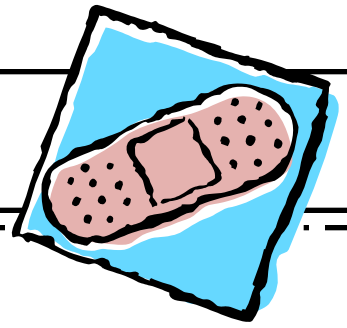
Officer & Chairman Volunteer Interest Form

2012 - 2013 School Year

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ____ **Birthday Cake Coordinator** Coordinate volunteers to provide a cake to recognize faculty birthdays.
- ____ **Book Fair Coordinator** Schedule, promote and implement all Book Fairs.
- ____ **Calendar and Activities Line Coordinator** Secure school calendar dates for publication and sale at registration. Record weekly activities on the phone line.
- ____ **Care Coordinator** Send greeting cards (congratulations, sympathy) or memorials to faculty/staff.
- ____ **Casserole Coordinator** Coordinate all activities to provide casseroles for staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ____ **Community Outreach Coordinator** Responsible for planning, maintaining and publicizing collections from Renner students for non-profit organizations. Works with counselors for the Families-In-Need Fund.
- ____ **Directory Coordinator** Responsible for organizing, developing, publication and distribution of a school student directory.
- ____ **Directory Advertising Coordinator** Responsible for soliciting, billing, and final advertising inclusion in the Renner student directory.
- ____ **Library Volunteer Coordinator** Responsible for scheduling volunteers to assist the Librarian as needed.
- ____ **Office and Copy Coordinator** Responsible for scheduling volunteers for the copy room, main office, and the counselors' office.
- ____ **PTA Website Coordinator** Develop and maintain PTA website with pertinent and current school year information.
- ____ **Partnership Coordinator** Develop and maintain PTA contacts with potential partnership organizations and secure donations for designated events.
- ____ **School Store Schedule Coordinator** Responsible for scheduling volunteers to work shifts in the school store.
- ____ **Staff/Team Luncheons Coordinator** Coordinate volunteers to provide a luncheon for each Renner faculty team and the administration. One coordinator per grade: _____ 6th _____ 7th _____ 8th
- ____ **Student Socials Coordinator** Coordinate two school-sponsored student socials, one per semester. Work with school personnel in implementing 8th Grade End-of-Year event.
- ____ **Teacher Treats Coordinator** Coordinates volunteers to provide teacher treats at the end of each six week grading period and sets up in Teachers' Lounge.
- ____ **Yard Sign/Decal Coordinator** Work with school personnel in coordinating the sale and distribution of activity related yard signs and vehicle decals.

Nurse's Notes...



Is There a Medication Culture in Your Home? News about Tylenol (Acetaminophen)

There is no doubt that our modern society has created a culture in which we look toward medication to relieve discomfort. We are so fortunate to live in an era where research has created medication solutions for many illnesses. We also have access to a huge number of medications that we routinely reach for when faced with minor discomforts. It is great to have remedies for headaches, nausea, allergies, cold symptoms, stomach aches and diarrhea. Sometimes we reach quickly for a remedy in the interest of time. In other words we are too busy to be sidelined by an ailment and we are looking for a quick fix.

As a school nurse I want to help students overcome minor ailments quickly so they can return to class and be effective in their learning. On the other hand, I realize that taking a more conservative approach would solve the problem, often without medication. Since we don't stock over the counter medications at school, I can usually get a student to try other means to relieve their discomforts. It is amazing how many complaints can be relieved by hydration, salt water, ice, peppermints, rest and time.

Parents who have provided medication for their child to have at school usually do so for a specific reason. Students who suffer from chronic headaches, orthodontic pain, cramps, or have had orthopedic injuries often do need medication to help them be able to survive the school day. However, it is important to strike a balance between medicating every ache and pain and medicating what can only be relieved by medication.

Ready access to over the counter medications may make us take them for granted. Consider the way your family uses over the counter medications. Do your children see you reach for a quick medication answer for yourself or for them? Are other options just as effective that would help your family reduce the use of over the counter medications such as the ones listed above?

Recently, the manufacturers of Tylenol (acetaminophen) have announced that they will be changing their labeling. For some years, the extra strength 500 mg variety of acetaminophen has been the easiest to find. You have to look pretty hard to find the regular strength 325 mg tablets. Taken as directed, acetaminophen is considered to be a very safe over the counter pain reliever. It is known that overdoses and misuse of acetaminophen can affect the liver. The new labeling will indicate that one extra strength tablet should be given to start. A second one can be given if there is no relief. Previously, the label indicated that another dose could be given in 4 hours. The new label will indicate a recommended 6 hour time interval between doses. I have also read that researchers have determined that there should be a lifetime limit on the number of doses of acetaminophen. One figure that was quoted was 1000 doses. If you consider an 80 year life span, that is the equivalent of a little more than 12 doses a year.

Folks often use just a little more than the recommended dosage of over the counter medication since we have come to know that the acceptable prescription strength of these medications is higher. But you can see by the Tylenol example that it would be very easy to overdo it. The sensible course for managing pain with over the counter medications is to follow the label directions. If you don't get sufficient relief from the recommended dose, talk with your physician or pharmacist about options. And don't forget to try non-medication options as well.

At school, we are bound to follow the directions on the label of any given over the counter medication. If your doctor writes a note indicating a different dosage or time schedule we can usually follow that without a problem. Students who are still 11 years old will need to have the Junior or Children's version of the medication that gives the dosage for their age.

On a final note, as much as I would advocate for students to take less medication than they sometimes do, I can tell you without a doubt that the headache, sore throat or stomach ache that starts at home before school starts, seldom gets better with the arrival at school. That is a good time to consider over the counter medication since we don't keep those things stocked here at school.

Renner's Tower of Cans

We would like to send a giant thank you to everyone that participated in our annual "Tower of Cans" food drive! Once again it was a great success! Renner students, staff, and parents are the best!!

The Winners

6th grade: Ms. Conway's advisory with a tower measuring 92 ft.

8th grade: Ms. Varjian's advisory with a tower measuring 52 ft.

and

**our 7th grade winner with a whopping 246 ft. tower
is Ms. Andrade's advisory!**

This year Renner collected a total of 1,250 feet of cans. If laid out horizontally end to end this would be longer than 4 football fields and if stacked vertically, it would be the same height as the Empire State Building!!!

Thanks again to all who participated. Renner CAN make a difference!!

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!



language arts

Students will study an overview of text structures (chronological, problem/solution, compare/contrast, etc.) in order to understand how the topic of a text often determines its structure. This overview will guide us as we study the many types of purposes and structures an author's writing can take. Students will read a novel with unique text structure. Additional expository texts are used from resources including newspapers and magazines.

We begin with the study of the novel, *Seedfolks*, which the teacher reads aloud. This short novel is written as a series of first person narratives, each from a different character's perspective. Students will be asked to respond after each chapter with a different form or writing. When the novel is complete, students will write one additional chapter for the book, creating a new character with unique problems and perspective.

PACE will also hear *Seedfolks* and study various text structures. Then they will move to the novel, *The Hobbit*. The CAP will be an election for the President of Middle Earth. They will need to use textual evidence from the novel to support their causes.

Our grammar focus for this unit is the use of adjectives, adverbs and punctuation. Our CAP LA 6 for this unit will ask students to create a newspaper utilizing a variety of the text structures with which they have become familiar.

history

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

science

We are in the middle of our Ocean Systems unit in sixth grade. We started the unit by studying ocean organisms & adaptations that help each organism survive in this ecosystem. Students created unique ocean creatures that lived in different zones of the ocean, utilizing different, unique adaptations.

Next, we will discuss biodiversity of the ocean – focusing on fish and cetaceans, classifying organisms, and food webs that exist in the ocean. We will finish with our CAP – a research project over an ocean animal that your child chooses to learn more about. We look forward to seeing your child's creations!

math

Students are finishing up the unit, *Bits and Pieces III* with dividing decimals and solving problems that involve percents. We are working through real-life applications of these concepts - computing store discounts, sales tax and tips at restaurants. By the end of the unit, your child should be able to calculate the tip when you go out for the dinner! Every student needs to continue to work on memorizing their multiplication and division facts through the 14s! It is so very important that they be able to recall the facts quickly in order to solve more complex problems.



GRADE

english

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

science

Well, our bottle biology days are behind us; the kids really enjoyed this project and we hope it was a fun learning experience for them. We have been studying plants; learning about photosynthesis and unique adaptations that allow plants to survive in different abiotic conditions. From there we moved into our atomic structure and periodic table unit. Your students have sure had their fill of biology and chemistry this semester! We are finishing off with a CAP project and preparing for our semester exam, so please encourage your child to continue to work hard for a strong finish to this semester. It’s hard to believe we’re almost halfway through!

Honors

The students have worked very hard on their independent research projects. We know they are excited for the fair and to experience the sense of accomplishment that comes with such a large task. We will continue to work to challenge your students this upcoming semester.

math

We are completing our third book and the first semester with Kaleidoscopes, Hubcaps and Mirrors. This book is about symmetry; Reflection, rotation and translational symmetry. The students have enjoyed this unit by creating reflections and tessellations. Some of these beautiful creations are on the wall in the tiger hall.

This semester has been very busy and we look forward to a new semester after holidays. The second semester will consist of slopes, three dimensional figures and probability. The seventh grade math department looks forward to introducing these new concepts to our students in the spring semester.



history

Yea Haw!!! US History is rocking along. So far this year, we've studied the geography of the US, explored the Western Hemisphere, colonized with Britain, defeated the French, declared independence from the British crown, won our independence and established a new government.

Now as second semester starts, we have the New Republic. And in this New Republic, we face lots of challenges. This unit is designed to help students understand the trials faced by the new republic during the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. The culminating assessment is a document-based essay on the leadership role of the earliest presidents. This is an opportunity for the students to participate in the process of writing a document-based essay as a practice before the document-based essay is administered for the district semester exam.

math

In eighth grade, the students will review STAAR based skills as well as continue their study of linear and quadratic expressions and equations in the Connected Math unit called Say It with Symbols. In this unit, the emphasis shifts to using the properties of numbers to look at equivalent expressions and the information each expression represents in a given context, and to interpret underlying patterns that a symbolic equation or statement represents. Students look critically at each part of an expression and how each part relates to their original expression. They examine the graph and table of an expression as well as the context the expression models. The properties of equality and numbers are used extensively in this unit as students write and interpret equivalent expressions, combine expressions to form new expressions, predict patterns of change represented by an equation or expression, and solve equations. In particular, this unit helps to develop what we call "symbol sense".

english

On Level English

Students are beginning the amazing adventures of Mark Harrison, in Gary Paulsen's *Transall Saga*. In conjunction with the novel, the students will be challenged to be the creators of their own judicial system that will deal with conflicts ranging from minor violations to life changing infractions.

Honors English

Students are beginning Robert Louis Stevenson's novella about good vs. evil, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The students will have discussions about the book and Stevenson's views on man's duality of the mind as well as connecting their own experiences and comments on how people are not always how they seem. The students segue from a commentary on man's inherent nature to that of man being told how to think in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Is this a picture of our future?

science

To kick off the new semester we will be exploring Newton's three laws via multiple lab set ups. As we move through our physics unit we will also be discussing the difference between speed and acceleration and applying that newly attained knowledge to mathematical situations. As we continue through the semester we will delve back into chemistry. In seventh grade science they touch on the fundamentals of chemistry but this year we will explore chemistry more deeply. We will review the basic structure of an atom, explore chemical and physical properties of matter, and begin writing chemical equations and discuss how it is related to the Law of Conservation of Matter. After the students have a firm grasp on chemistry, they will apply that knowledge to minerals. "Not all that shines is gold!"