

CLASS NOTES

RENAISSANCE WORKS - IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS...

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to help every child reach his or her potential with confidence and joy!



Coming Events

5th Grade Field Trip

Day in Court
Friday, April 1

Saturday School

Saturday, April 2

K-3 9:15-12:15

4-8 9:30-12:30

Family Pick-Up 12:45

Coming Events cont.

Absence Make-Up Days
8 am - Noon

Saturday, April 9
Saturday, April 16
Saturday, April 30

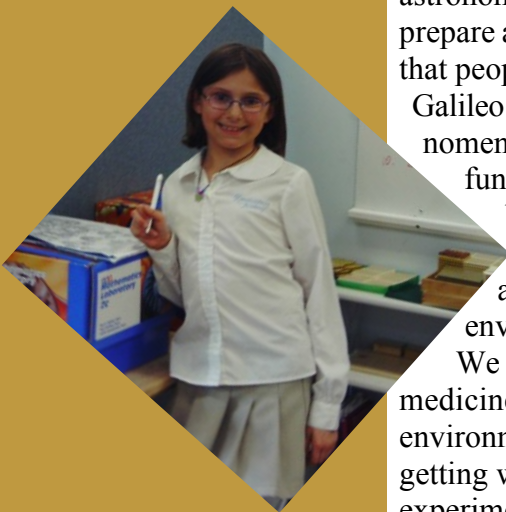


April Break

Half Day, Thurs. April 21
- No After School Childcare -
No School, Fri., April 22
No School, Mon., April 25

ISTEP Tests

3rd - 8th Grade
April 26 - May 4



EARLY RENAISSANCE -

BELLINI CLASS

Spring presents many opportunities to discover the world of blooming life surrounding us. The Bellini class has been getting in touch with our five senses and translating what we are discovering in nature through poetry. After being introduced to a variety of poems and exploring what excites us in the surrounding world, we expressed these thoughts and feelings through our own original poems. Recently, each of your students even had the opportunity to enter these poems in a state wide poetry contest. We'll keep you posted on the results!

Currently we are discussing the life cycle of a caterpillar. After reading The Very Hungry Caterpillar, we discovered the process that a caterpillar goes through in order to transform from a caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly. In order to show our understanding of this process in more depth, we recreated this transformation with pasta shells that resembled the egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly, all upon a decorated leaf. Your student then took on the role of a butterfly and wrote their own poem about growth they have made this year in school. If you have the opportunity, please check out this extravagant display outside of our classroom.

As you know, our students recently wore green to celebrate St. Patrick's day. Not only did we dress the part, but we also had the opportunity to travel to Ireland and recreate Irish Soda Bread. This is a traditional food from years ago that your scholar had the opportunity to make first hand in small groups. Check out the pictures seen in this month's school newsletter to observe the fun we've had!

MIDDLE RENAISSANCE -

GALILEO CLASS

The Galileo class has been very productive during the month of March! We have started our ancient Greek culture studies through a variety of curriculum and classroom projects. Students have been learning about the way people lived years ago, including their art, beliefs, geography, history and society. Ancient Greeks especially contributed many things to the scientific world, from medicine to astronomy. The children will be starting to research Ancient Greek Scientists to prepare a presentation for the class. As children study different cultures, they learn that people are truly more alike than different!

Galileo has also started our Botany unit. The children are working with Montessori nomenclature cards to learn the terms and definitions of parts of plants and functions of plants. Students are learning that the study of plants is important because of the increasing human populations, modern technology, and industrial and agricultural practices are causing many environmental problems.

We are dependent on plants for fresh air, food, medicine, building materials and aesthetic environments. We are all excited that the weather is getting warmer so that we can start investigating and experimenting outdoors as botanists!



MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - COPERNICUS CLASS



Copernicus students are going for the gold! As we learn about the Ancient Greek civilization, students have been researching the Olympic Games. We are preparing for the Spartans, Athenians, Corinthians, and Megarians to represent their respective city-states. At our next Saturday School, we will reenact one of the first games held in 776 B.C. However, we will break the rules and allow ladies to attend the festivities. Did you know

that it was forbidden, on penalty of death, for women to even see the Olympics in Ancient Greece?

Students have also been excited to write plays as part of our Language Arts work. Using our knowledge of Ancient Greece, students are beginning to write skits based on Greek stories such as the Odyssey and the Iliad. We will look forward to performing our masterpieces as a class.

Another neat writing project students recently enjoyed was creating a time capsule. Students wrote letters to the kids of the future. They described life in 2011 and predicted what they think the future will be like. The time capsule will be opened in the year 2036 for Michigan City's 200th birthday celebration!

Our Science studies are moving to botany as the leaves return to the trees and flowers begin to bloom. We are looking forward to enjoying spring as we venture outdoors to study the plant life in our backyard this month. Students will study parts of plants and learn to classify them. We will grow soybeans and lily pads in our new aquarium. Our room will also be home to several tadpoles which we will enjoy watching develop into frogs.

Copernicus students would like to thank all the parents for coming to Montessori Night last month. Everyone did an outstanding job with their presentations!



I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work."

-Plato

Ongoing Activities

Sports & Clubs

Drama Workshop

4th -8th Grade
Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:30 - 4:45 pm
March 1 - April 7

Bowling

1st - 8th Grade
Fridays , March 1 - April 18
1st - 3rd, 3:30 - 4:30
4th - 6th , 4:00 - 5:00

Art

1st - 4th Grade
Tuesdays 3:20 - 4:20
March 22 - April 26

Yoga

3rd -8th Grade
Wednesdays, 3:40 -4:40
March 23 - April 27

Track & Field

4th - 8th Grade
Mondays & Thursdays
4:45 - 5:45
LaLumiere Track
Beginning April 12

*“Carpe diem!
Rejoice while you
are alive; enjoy
the day; live life
to the fullest;
make the most of
what you have. It
is later than you
think.”*

- Horace

PRE-RENAISSANCE - MARCO POLO & GUTENBERG



Howdy Folks! We are excited for spring and the eventual, warm weather it will bring!! Things are growing down in our classroom: the kids have each planted their own Lima bean seeds and are watching them grow. We are learning all about botany: seeds, plants, fruits and vegetables, and are ready to begin learning all about mammals in juts a few weeks!!

The little scientists in our classroom have had a great time learning all about the properties of magnetism, and the weather cycle! We got to go outside to check for all the magnetic things out on

our playgrounds, and we will also get to look for some different types of clouds (Stratus, Cumulus, Cirrus) this week!

As for math, we have finished up our study of money and are now learning how to measure items using inches and centimeters.

We will be gearing up for Earth Day and learning all about recycling, and as the weather warms, we will be getting outside to begin to explore all the springtime activity going on!

As we progress though the last two months of our school year, I can't wait to see what exciting places my little learners will go!!



FUN(D)RAISING

Our school needs the support of its entire community to ensure the success of fundraising efforts. This spring we have several school fundraisers that require the participation of student's families, friends and neighbors. At Renaissance we try to limit and vary our fundraisers to ones that are proven successful and/or our families have expressed a desire for. Please let us know if you have a great idea that you would like to be considered. For now here is the spring line up.

The Descartes ala Carte fundraiser continues to raise steady income for class trips and brighten everyone's mornings. The 7th & 8th graders are doing an excellent job of providing treats and service with a smile! Donations of baked goods, cups, and other goods that the business could use are always welcome.

We will be having a Port-a-Pit Chicken Fundraiser at Auto Zone on Hwy 20 on May 6 and we will need everyone to help sell tickets for the event. We will also need 8-10 parents to work 2-3 hour shifts at the sale. Please call the office to sign up.

Café Gulustan the famously popular and delicious restaurant in Harbert Michigan will be dedicating an entire night of sale profits to the Junior High trips! Ibrahim Parlak the proud father of 8th grader Livia Gazzolo and owner of the restaurant has generously donated this fabulous fundraising opportunity to the students! We need all our Renaissance families and friends to join for dinner and help make this a successful fundraiser and a memorable culinary event.

MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - ERASMUS CLASS

During the month of March Erasmus students took the ISTEP examination, managed our micro-economies week, and enjoyed our spring break.

Erasmus students worked very hard to master the concepts of business. Micro-economy week is a time when students put their knowledge of business into action. Students began businesses that they thought would make a profit. Some students became employees while other students were happy being consumers. The classroom was transformed into a “community” of businesses. Students ran stores and performed services for “real” money. Restaurants sold quesadillas, french fries, and sweet and sour chicken. One entrepreneur ran an arcade featuring PacMan. Another aspiring salesperson invited people to his carnival of games and chance. Art was sold, bargains were struck, change was counted.

Everyone learned something about inventory management, pricing, supply



and demand, competition, and credit. Most importantly, we all learned to value work. One student shared it this way, “On the first day I missed lunch because I didn’t want to close my business. On the second day I ate lunch before I opened my store so that I could be open during other kids’ lunch. I made a lot more money when I was open.”

We learned a lot about starting and managing a business. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and students who supported our “Micro-economies” Week!



CHESS WIZARDS

Renaissance Academy was well represented at the Indiana Chess Championship this past weekend with three teams, totaling fourteen players, battling against the top players in the State.

This year the Wizards were accompanied by three alumni players, Vincent Carroll, Xavier Carroll and Richey Cains, and their teammate Robert Lake. The high school students have recently started a Chess team at LaLumiere and were competing for the first time at the high school level. Strong move guys.

Most families took advantage of the school day off on Friday by driving to Terre Haute early to meet at the Holidome for a day of swimming, ping pong, tag, and chess practice. Fun was definitely had by all!

Saturday, the tournament began too early for those on central time, and though everyone did their best, placing in the top ten was just not on the board for 2011. Nevertheless, everyone did well, and overall wins exceeded losses. All players gained tremendous experience and are excited about coming back next year to try again.

That's the spirit Wizards!

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

-Aristotle

EARLY RENAISSANCE - DA VINCI CLASS

“Nothing happens to anyone which he is not fitted by nature to bear.”

-Marcus Aurelius



The da Vinci class has been hard at work. We have been vigorously working on "publishing" our own books. We have spent many weeks discovering how a story is written and all that goes into writing a story.

By the end of April, everyone in the da Vinci class will have "published" and illustrated their own book. We have been working on the parts of a story and how we need them in our books. We have spent a lot of time on:

setting: where the story takes place

character(s): who the story is about

theme: why we are writing the story

plot: the events of the story

climax: the turning point of the story, usually the problem

resolution: how the problem is solved

After many rough drafts we will be ready to start the book writing process. Through all this we have developed a great appreciation for the books we read and the work that goes into them.

The continent of Asia has been the geography focus for the da Vinci. We have learned about China and some of its customs. We have also

learned about Japan. We have not only talked about the recent events in Japan, but also some of the traditions that have been around for years. One tradition we have really focused on is the poetry form called Haiku. We wrote several poems about Spring using this form of poetry.

As always we continue to focus on the fundamentals of our education, such as reading, math, writing, and spelling. The above are just some extras we do in our classroom. Please continue to check your student's take home folders for spelling, math, and reading work. Also, be sure your student is reading everyday for at least 15 minutes. As always, thank you for your support.

“There are many wonderful things and nothing is more wonderful than man.”

-Sophocles



LATE RENAISSANCE - DESCARTES CLASS

As we approach the culmination of our Ancient World studies, our attention has been focused over the past months on the great civilizations of the western world, Greece and Rome. After learning about the "polis", or Greek city-state, and some of the most famous historical poli, including Athens and Sparta, we have recently been working on creating our own! Drawing on our knowledge of Greek culture, mythology, government, and warfare, we are constructing a polis that could have existed in the Ancient World.

Students elected to name our Polis "Posedonia" after its patron deity, Poseidon, god of the Sea. Fittingly, Posedonia was located on the present-day island of Bermuda. Their relative seclusion allowed the people of Posedonia to be primarily peaceful, and their abundant and widely coveted indigo crop has helped them to build a wealthy and artistic culture. Students are currently working in groups to produce artifacts from Posedonia. Each group is responsible for a different element of culture (e.g. government, religion, arts and entertainment, diplomacy and warfare, etc.) This project gives students the opportunity to synthesize everything we have learned about the early development of human civilizations with an infusion of our own creativity.

I'm looking forward to seeing the final products, which will include a poster advertising the Posedonian Aquatic Games, a pamphlet for a local potter's studio, a floor plan for the central military base, and a model of the Temple to Poseidon in the city square, among many others!



"Give me one firm spot on which to stand and I will move the earth."

-Archimedes

EARLY RENAISSANCE - ALBERTI CLASS

Alberti students returned from Spring Break refreshed and ready to learn. Many students had lovely things to say about trips and adventures they had with family and friends during break. I enjoyed hearing about all of them.

After many, many weeks of preperation, our Egyptian chicken mummy, King Cluck, received his final send off. Each student took a turn wrapping the King in cheese cloth strips and placing "jewels" and "coins" between the wrappings. A handpainted sarcophagus was prepared with the King's name and a "Beware the mummy curse" spelled out in hieroglyphics. "Silver dust" and more "jewels" added the final touches to our sarcophagus. Goodbye, King Cluck.

As always, we remain focused on math and reading. Ms. Audrey's new reading groups have offered many of our lower elementary students the opportunity to read and work with longer, more complicated reading selections.

Weight and measurement concepts are an important part of our math studies this time of year. We turned our studies into practical application when we all enjoyed the Renaissance tradition of making Irish Soda bread in March. It seemed this year's bread was the best yet!



"A man's character is his fate."

-Heraclitus

Renaissance Academy

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www.rschool.net

Class Times:

8:15 - 11:15 am AM 3-6 Class
8:15 am - 2:45 pm Full Day 3-6 Class
8:30 am - 3:00 pm Early Ren. (1st - 3rd)
8:45 am - 3:15 pm Middle Ren. (4th - 6th)
8:45 am - 3:30 pm Late Ren. (7th - 8th)

Daily Extras:

7:00 - 8:30 am Before School Camp
11:15 - 11:45 am Lunch Time Fun
2:45 - 5:30 pm After School Camp

We're on the web:
www.rschool.net



TECH TALK

It never seems to stop. Your child wants a new video game. Your child wants the newest, greatest MP3 player. Your child wants to join an online gaming community that has a monthly fee. Your child wants a cell phone with more features. Your child wants a computer. It seems as the technological advances continue to develop at high speed, your child's wish list also grows. What can you do? Consider these ideas.

Tips for . . .

all parents

Place limits on the amount of time your children can spend in front of a screen every day. Most experts recommend no more than one hour a day of total screen time, and that includes the TV, computer, video game systems, MP3 players with video capabilities, and cell phones used for texting, playing games and watching videos. (Even Bill and Melinda Gates limit their children to a total of 45 minutes a day of total screen time and an hour a day on the weekends.)

parents with children ages birth to 5

Most young children should not have access to any technology until they're at least two or three years old, says the American Academy of Pediatrics. Try to keep technology away from young children as much as possible. They'll develop better if they spend more time playing, being with adults and other children, and having books read to them.

Some preschoolers beg for hand-held video games. Know that most games require a child to have reading skills, which preschoolers do not have yet. If you do buy games, buy only ones rated EC for "early childhood."

parents with children ages 6 to 9

Before your child starts to play a game, talk about how you will negotiate ending it. (Children are notorious for saying, "I can't stop, I'll lose this game if I stop now!" and then continuing to play for 15 to 30 minutes after you asked them to stop.) If this happens often, shorten their playing time and ask them to turn it off 30 minutes before you want them to.

Make sure your children spend more time doing things that are not technologically related, such as reading, playing with other children, doing homework, doing family activities, making crafts, and getting exercise. If they refuse, do not buy them more electronic gadgets.

parents with children ages 10 to 15

Many kids at this age begin to pressure their parents for a cell phone, if they don't have one already. If you want your child to have one, consider starting him or her out with a prepaid cell phone and place strict limits on its use. For example, when your child goes to bed, the cell phone doesn't stay in the bedroom. Some kids have been known to talk/text late into the night, or be awakened at three in the morning by a friend who can't sleep.

If you allow your child to use the Internet, make sure you have parent controls, since many kids at this age are tempted to view web sites that are pornographic or violent. Be clear that it is not acceptable to do so. Keeping computers out of your child's bedroom and only accessible where everyone can see what is on the screen is another way to monitor what your child is doing online.

You may feel pressured to allow your kids to play games that are rated higher than their age group and to watch movies with a higher age rating. Be clear where you stand on this, and monitor your kids' electronic use, since it's easy for them to borrow games and videos from friends.

Go to www.mediawise.org for more tips and strategies for parenting in a high tech world.