

CLASS NOTES

MAKING AMERICAN HISTORY FUN AND MEMORABLE!

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Coming Events

Spring Break
March 7 - 11

Absence Make-Up Day
Saturday, March 19
8 am - Noon

Montessori Conference
Half Day, Thurs. March 24
No School, Fri., March 25

5th Grade Trip
Day in Court
Friday, April 1



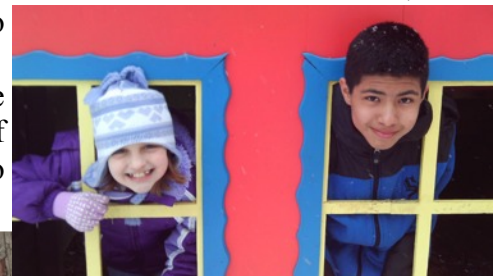
On Friday, February 24, the fifth grade students arrived at school with sleeping bags, pillows, and tooth brushes to spend 24 hours studying American History. From Friday morning until Saturday afternoon, students participated in activities that brought major American historical events, concepts, and people to life. Every student made a relief map of the

United States. Every student made miniature models of shelters used by Native Americans and colonists. Students discussed the impact of the natural environment on human activities. Students also discussed the concepts of “Separation of Powers,” “Checks and Balances,” and “Constitutional Rights and Duties.”

Students played games called “Name that President,” “Constitutional Quiz Bowl,” and “American Pictionary!” They drew pictures of Mount Rushmore, Betsy Ross, Thomas Edison, The Gold Rush, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Apollo Space Shuttle. They sang the National Anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students put names like Leif Erikson, Christopher Columbus, John Smith, Thomas Jefferson, Harriet Tubman, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Richard Nixon in context of how the United States and our way of life has developed over time. Lizzy said, “I had a great time at the history sleep over. I learned so much! Thanks!” Brooke and Donovan agreed that they “loved it and had so much fun!” while Caroline said, “This was an awesome weekend. We learned so much about history.”

Over the course of 24 hours, students wrote four essays and answered hundreds of questions. Everyone had a blast! Great job to all our American explorers.



Coming Events cont.

Saturday School

Saturday, April 2

K-3 9:15-12:15

4-8 9:30-12:30

Family Pick-Up 12:45



EARLY RENAISSANCE - BELLINI

During the month of February, the Bellini class has been busy at work and it definitely shows through all of their progress. One way you can identify the great progress the children have made this year is through the drastic changes in their self portraits. The self portraits are not only a reflection of your student's image of themselves, but are also of their growth in perception and ability. The greater attention to detail and the improvement of their fine motor skills



are a huge indicators of your child's brain development and growth. Hopefully you were able to notice the difference when you stopped in for Montessori Night. Many of the teachers, including myself, were very impressed!

Thank you again for joining us for the Montessori Night. The children were truly excited to show off their mastery of knowledge. Keep in mind these are only a very small portion of works the students have been introduced to so far this year and they will be introduced to many more the remainder of the year. Most of the students have already started new works. I encourage you to ask your children to talk about new works at school and ask them daily about their work plans. The children should have a lot to tell!

MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - COPERNICUS CLASS

Copernicus students have been excited about exploring Ancient History! At our last Saturday School, students paid a visit to an Ancient Chinese marketplace. Everyone was given a job title and asked to produce goods. Students had to barter with one another in the marketplace to complete a shopping list. We quickly learned how supply and demand work! Our next topic of study in History will be the Ancient Greeks.

Math groups have been focusing on geometric concepts. Students have been working a lot with angles and triangles. We are also learning to find the perimeter, area, and volume of a variety of shapes. Students had the opportunity to stretch their mathematical minds with an introduction to Pythagorean theorem.

Writing continues to be a major focus in our classroom. Students are perfecting their skills in writing five paragraph essays. Students have recently participated in "Ten Minute Challenges" which prepare them to write succinct essays in a limited amount of time. Students are also eager to start a new language box that will allow for further independent study of grammar concepts.

Our Science focus has shifted to Great Scientists and their great scientific discoveries. We will be emphasizing Ancient Scientists including Archimedes, Euclid, and Pythagoras. Each week, students will research a different scientist and their contributions to the field. Perhaps we have some future great scientists right here in our classroom!



"The level of our success is limited only by our imagination and no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."

-Aesop

MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - GALILEO CLASS



Galileo students are working diligently in the mornings on all things math and language. Our primary focus in language is seeking out our true commitment to point of view and tense in terms of creative writing, essay, and short stories. Ask your student

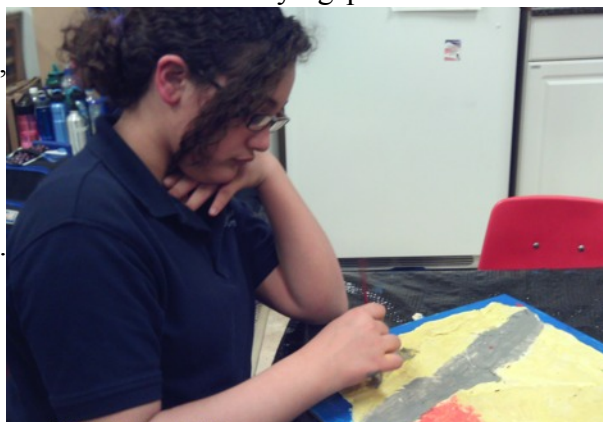
for the privilege of reading his/her recent masterpieces.

As for math, Galileo is forging ahead in our independent learning with devoted practice and self-assessment. We are excited for the quickly approaching change in season so we might *spring forward* into a world of study, observation, and exploration that only the outdoors can afford us. After all, mathematics and geometry is thrilling enough in the Montessori classroom, but imagine how our methods can take shape when studied in nature's classroom!

We are thrilled to have gained new privileges such as checking our own work, proof reading our friend's essays, and most importantly, being the sole caretakers of our environment. In addition to these wonderful additions to our practical life curriculum we are excited to tell you that we are learning proper etiquette during our snack and lunch times as well as the appropriate ways to address and communicate to other children and adults. It is truly beautiful to see the children of Galileo striving to reach their greatest potential!

The Galileo class has been just as productive in the afternoons during the last few weeks! Each student researched a country in the continent of Africa and wrote a research report. The children were eager and excited to do their investigating! Along with the reports, they have started studying the geography of Africa and Asia by making maps. In addition, they have also studied the flags and maps of different countries. Puzzle maps, flags and geographical land formations enable children to learn about and become interested in the world in which they live. Students have just picked new countries in Asia to examine. Ask your child which country they will be researching. The students have also been studying phases of the moon, learning Spanish, creating wonderful pieces of art in art class, and taking their weekly spelling tests. Wow!

Thanks to all of you that took the time out of your busy schedules to come in for conferences last week. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Spring is almost here!



The Wind and the Sun

The Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger.

Suddenly they saw a traveler coming down the road, and the Sun said: "I see a way to decide our dispute. Whichever of us can cause that traveler to take off his cloak shall be regarded as the stronger. You begin."

So the Sun retired behind a cloud, and the Wind began to blow as hard as it could upon the traveler. But the harder he blew the more closely did the traveler wrap his cloak round him, till at last the Wind had to give up in despair.

Then the Sun came out and shone in all his glory upon the traveler, who soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on.

-Aesop

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

Chess Team

March Practices
Thursdays
3:30-4:45 pm

State Tournament
Sat., March 26
Terre Haute, IN



PRE-RENAISSANCE - MARCO POLO & GUTENBERG



Greetings from the Marco polo & Gutenberg Classroom!

We are still working hard and having a blast in class! The kids have just finished up our study of reptiles and have moved on to our feathery friends, birds. We also have begun to learn about our next continent: Africa. Each day we read a folktale from Africa, we also have some interesting items in class to look at from our "green" continent, and have even learned to sing our good morning song in an African dialect. (Thanks to Sylvia and Mary Agba for helping us out with that!)

The kindergartners did a great job during our two Montessori Nights last week! We showed some great works like the 100 Board, the 45 Lay Out, Picture to Label, Parts of a Bird, and many others! It was so much fun to see our students act in the role of "teachers" and present the works they do each day! We also had fun at our Parent Discovery Pre-School Journey night. Thanks to all who attended!

The kids are looking forward to a restful break, but keep in mind to challenge them and encourage academically focused activities while they are away from school. Ask your children to help out around the house, encourage activities where they work with their hands (puzzles, crafts, drawing), and make sure they are reading or being read-to each day! If you are planning any trips please send items or pictures in with your child after the break so they can tell us all about it!

Keep in mind that children are always encouraged to bring in items that coincide with the subjects we are working on in class. We are studying birds and the continent of Africa now, and after the break we will begin to work on weather, magnetism, fruits, veggies and seeds, and measurement!



WINTER REMINDERS

When it is 17° or above, all students go out for recess. Please send your child with labeled outerwear appropriate for the weather. Students must have boots to play in the snow and snow pants are required for sledding.

With Renaissance in the limits of LaPorte and in the Michigan City Area Schools district, we must follow both school systems weather closings.

School Closings - If Michigan City or LaPorte Schools are closed for bad weather, so is Renaissance Academy. Do not bring children in at all.

School Delays - NO AM CAMP. Doors will not open until 8:15 am for PreK/K, 8:30 am for Elementary. Attendance will not be taken until 60 minutes after regular start time, no tardies.

MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - ERASMUS CLASS



Greetings from Erasmus! In spite of snow days and two hour delays, students in Erasmus have been very busy studying the phases of Earth's moon, understanding stellarnucleosis (birth of stars), and learning the history of Constellations. Many students completed an in-depth study of the history of numbers beginning with ancient peoples and ending with modern computers. Other students have focused on Greek myths. All students were given a monologue from Shakespeare's play 'Anthony and Cleopatra' to memorize: "The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne. Burned on the water..."

In geometry, students have practiced constructing lines, angles, triangles and polygons. Some students are now calculating square and cube roots and the area of a circle. All students have consistently practiced calculating fractions, decimals, and percents.

The focus this month was on writing well! Students have practiced writing sentences, paragraphs, essays, and creative stories. The sixth grade students wrote essays to enter in the national Ty Howard Year 2011 Black History Writing Contest.



We are pleased to announce that Jude Gussman won third place in this contest and will be receiving \$50.00 for his efforts. Way to go Jude! Finally, a big THANKS goes to all the Erasmus parents who made it possible for us to have 100% attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences!

Renaissance Wizards

6th & Under A Team

*Jude Gussman
Luke Carroll
Leo Carroll
Lev'Ron Norvell*



6th & Under B Team

*Caroline Bates
Maddie Davidson
Erik Hultrgen
Noah Hanke
Scout Steinhiser*

6th & Under C Team

*Mya Methner
Natalia Castillio
Kobe Brandon
Horatio Bankhead*

CHESS WIZARDS

Congratulations to all of the Chess Wizards who traveled to Hammond to play in the IN State Regional Tournament. Renaissance had three 6th and under teams, and two 3rd and under teams enter to compete for a spot in the state championships coming up in March.



After five tough rounds of play, all the players deserved a round of applause for working their hardest for their teams.

In the end, three of our teams, one 6th and under, and two 3rd and under, qualified to play in the state championship in Terre Haute, IN. Yay!

Even more impressive, our 6th and under A team finished in 8th place and our 3rd and under A team won 2nd place at the Regional Tournament! Way to go Wizards and good luck at the championships!



3rd & Under A Team

*Evan Bates
Aidan Kunst
Logan Dietrich
Keara Best*

3rd & Under B Team

*Sean Gordon
Paige Potcek
Wyatt Steinhiser
Quinn Baker
Jesse Kunst
Elliott Hanke*

EARLY RENAISSANCE - DAVINCI CLASS



The month of February has gone by quickly. We have been working hard on developing the many skills necessary to complete our workplans. The basics of math, language, and reading are always the main focus of our studies. Some of our highest level readers are enjoying participating in special reading groups with Ms. Audrey. Other areas of study, the da Vinci class has been exploring, are gravity, constellations, and Presidents.

During a Saturday school we studied the effects of gravity. We made a scale out of rubber bands and discovered that Caleb's shoe had a stronger gravitational pull than Mrs. Decker's. By dropping a sponge and a small bar of soap onto a hand, we learned that the soap added to the gravitational pull of the hand. Dropping contests helped us realize that all objects drop at the same rate unless air is involved. Our favorite experiment was the bucket of water that Mrs. Decker spun around. Did you know that the centripetal force applied to the water inside the bucket keeps the water in the bucket?



Constellations were explored in the classroom. We learned about the constellation of our school mascot. Leo, the lion, can be found in the night sky by looking for a backward question mark. Also, we read many books about constellations. After reading the books, we wrote a five paragraph essay on constellations.



The last area of cultural studies our class enjoyed was learning about the Presidents. Since we were honoring President's Day, we focused mainly on Lincoln and Washington. We learned that they are on our money. Lincoln also kept many important papers in his tall hat. We enjoyed learning about our President's and how they helped our country.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parent's for supporting their student's education. Your participation in your child's academic career, including parent-teacher conferences and Montessori Nights is an important contribution to his/her success in school.

NET NEWS



The annual Parent Vs. Kids Basketball Game and pizza celebration scored big. This is always one of the most popular events of the season.

The evening started out with the 4th grade and under players storming the court to face off against parents and grandparents in an exciting battle that ended with the grown-ups panting and the kids roaring in victory.

Next, the 5th and 6th graders took the court against their parents in a competitive match which once again ended with the kids pulling ahead and winning the game. The last game was an extremely fierce competition between the 7th and 8th graders versus the parents and Ms. Audrey. The kids displayed the many skills and strategies they learned during the season and stayed ahead for most of the match. However, in the end, the parents used their substantial height advantage to win the game by one basket.

After the games, everyone enjoyed pizza and drinks and gave three cheers and a gift to Ms. Audrey for helping coach this year. Although Coach Roger Butler could not be there for the party, everyone expressed their heart-felt gratitude for his generous volunteering of his time and talent in coaching the kids this season.

Thanks Coach Roger!

LATE RENAISSANCE - DESCARTES CLASS

One of the most exciting elements of the Ancient World is the broad variety of religious traditions which we have an opportunity to study. Virtually all of the great religions of the world that are still around today trace their roots to a five- or six-hundred year period dating from the middle of the first millenium BCE to the first century CE. Throughout this year, we have already learned about the Eastern traditions: Hinduism and Buddhism from India, and Confucianism and Taoism from China. We have examined some primary source material from these religions, including myths, poetry, and philosophical works, read biographies of some of the most prominent of figures in these traditions, and even hosted a guest speaker to share with us some of the exciting and unusual mythology of the Hindu tradition. Throughout these explorations, we have talked about the similarities and differences among these religions and the ways in which religion has impacted other elements of culture throughout history.

In the waning months of the year, we turn our attention to the traditions of the West. We will begin with an examination of the Hebrew people and their difficulties fitting in with the Babylonian, Greek, and Roman cultures in which they lived. Next, we will read about the life of Jesus and his followers, and discuss the relationship between Judaism and Christianity in the ancient world. In addition to the obvious historical value of learning about the world's religions, we hope that the threads of commonality we find in these studies will help us all to be understanding and tolerant of those who have different beliefs than we ourselves hold. Here's hoping for an early Spring!



EARLY RENAISSANCE - ALBERTI CLASS

Congratulations to all the Alberti students who participated in this year's Montessori Nights. This year's program seemed to be the best ever. Our students' enthusiasm and eagerness to present and explain their Montessori works has never been greater. Our parents and friends were curious about and interested in our students' work and had fun learning about the Montessori classroom. Good job Alberti!

We at Renaissance Academy were surprised to learn this year's Black History contest would be for posters only. All of Alberti's students did their best to portray through their posters some of the things they have learned about America's black history. Our posters were wonderful. One award from the Lubeznik Center for the Arts went to Alberti student Brian Fetters for his poster on John Parker. Great work, Brian!

Our study of history this month has focused on the Ancient Greeks. The legacy of the Ancient Greeks has been long and lasting. Our students have had fun learning that the Olympics and marathon races go back to the Ancient Greeks, as well as our democratic form of government. Our students know connecting history to our current selves is a fun path to lasting learning.



Renaissance Academy
Experience the Joy of Learning

4093 West US 20
 La Porte, Indiana 46350
 219-878-8711
 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

Renaissance Winners

Michigan City
 Human Rights Commission

6th - 8th

Alex Jacobson, 3rd Place

3rd-5th

Leo Carroll, 2nd Place

K - 2nd

Cameron Wiles, 1st Place

Rory Kramer, 3rd Place

Lubeznik
 Center for the Arts

7th - 8th

Sylvia Ogar, 1st Place

Taylor Walpole

1st - 3rd

Brian Fetters, 1st Place

Aidan Kunst, 2nd Place

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
 MICHIGAN CITY!**

Renaissance was proud to be chosen as one of three schools selected to send a student representative to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Michigan City, IN. On February 8, 2010, one student from Michigan City High School, one student from Marquette High School, and one student from Renaissance Academy marked the occasion by presenting Mayor Chuck Oberlie with an anniversary cake.

After careful consideration, Renaissance staff selected Scout Steinhiser to represent our school. Scout was selected because she has been a student at Renaissance since she was a toddler and because her ancestors have been in Michigan City since the 1800's. Scout did an excellent job at the event speaking for us all when telling the Mayor our wishes for the future economic success of the Michigan City residents.

To further commemorate the event, each public and private school in the Michigan City area is invited to participate by submitting a packet of student created materials for a time capsule centering on the theme: "Our Hopes and Dreams for Michigan City."



POSTER POWER



Once again, Renaissance Academy made a tremendous impression at the annual Black History Month Contest sponsored by the Michigan City Human Rights Commission.

Every other year, the contest had three categories: art, essay and poetry, and every year, Renaissance Academy had the greatest number of winners coming from one school.

This year was no exception. Although there was only a poster contest this February, Renaissance still had the most winners in one school! Not only that, Renaissance also had a large number of posters chosen as winners in the Honorable Mention Contest run by Lubeznik Art Center after the commission made their choices.

As always, we are very proud to have so many of the works by our students recognized public ally, but like we tell our students, you can only win if you participate, and so we are very proud to have so many enthused participants. All of the students who worked hard and entered a poster should feel proud of doing their best and sharing their work. Way to go artists!

