

Renaissance Today

A publication of Renaissance Academy, Montessori PreK-8th Grade. Experience the Joy of Learning!

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HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN 2011

At Renaissance Academy there is no such thing as a slow start to a school year and this one is no exception. Everyone has hit the ground running, not only figuratively but literally as well, with academic and sporting activities filling our time since day one.

During the school day we've made some exciting changes and additions to our already busy schedules. This year's focus of study in history is the Middle Ages so all our 4th



through 8th grade reading groups are enjoying books that highlight those times. Books about knights of the Round Table, Robin Hood, Long Shanks, and Eleanor of Aquitaine to highlight just a few. These

book groups afford readers of all levels the opportunity to participate in a literary club style format while learning about history through stories and characters with whom they can relate.



Our annual Renaissance Faire tied up neatly with the period studies and gave children additional educational opportunities for hands on, experiential learning. The new location at Tryon Farm was perfectly suited to our event; the goats, barn and labyrinth maze added to the charm and ambiance. (Thank you to Renaissance's Howard Family & grandparents Ed and Eve Noonan, for making the farm available.)



It was great to see so many people join in the spirit of the day, adorning elaborate period attire, bringing baked goods, and participating in activities, crafts, and overall fun! Most important was the tremendous amount of learning that took place both during the Faire and in the several weeks of preparation. This kind of hands on, experiential learning is one quality that makes Renaissance Academy such a unique, interesting, and successful school!



PRE-RENAISSANCE - MARCO POLO CLASS

*“Books to the ceiling,
Books to the sky,
My pile of books is a
mile high.
How I love them!
How I need them!
I’ll have a long
beard by the time I
read them.”*

~Arnold Lobel



The Marco Polo Class has had a wonderful start to the school year - reuniting with old friends and getting to know all of our new ones. We recently visited Garwood Apple Orchard which was a great way to celebrate Autumn.

We’ve been working on lessons of grace and courtesy in the classroom along with learning all about our beautiful Montessori materials. The solar system is our first unit of study in science, and many impressive “planet posters” are being created. Another major focus is the planet Earth, we are working on the names of



the continents (ask your child to sing them to you). The children in our classroom have really become a “family” already. It’s such a great class!



*“Autumn
is the bite of
the harvest apple.*

~Christina Petrowsky



MIDDLE RENAISSANCE - COPERNICUS CLASS



After taking the first couple of weeks to get to know one another, familiarize ourselves with the environment, and adjust to the new and exciting schedule we have this year, the Copernicus Class has settled into a comfortably productive routine. We are working hard on the Great Lessons which lend us a sound foundation in prehistory as we move toward our focus this year, the Middle Ages through Modern Times. In science, Copernicus continues practice with the Scientific Method which allows us the chance to perform daily experiments as well as a bit of research to better understand what it is that we are observing. In addition to our new discoveries in science and history we continue our practice in essay writing, word study, sentence analysis, spelling, and vocabulary.

As a whole, the Copernicus Class must admit that we mostly look forward to our math and reading groups. It is really nice to get to move around the school, mix with other classes, and be able to interact with the many teachers at Renaissance. Engaging in group discussions with our peers over the infinite wonders found in all subject areas truly excites us about learning!

When telling you about our experiences thus far, Copernicus cannot possibly forget about our special weekly classes. We have the privilege of practicing drumming and dance outside on our beautiful playground. We experience art by using multiple techniques and mediums. We learn our Spanish and practice our writing in classes that offer us literary outlets in both the written and spoken word. We are definitely becoming experienced, well-rounded scholars here at Renaissance Academy!



Needless to say, Copernicus is more than excited that we have hit full stride in the 2011-2012 school year. We are looking forward to sharing our many experiences with you and each other. The Copernicus Class is certain that, as the years progresses, we will be a model of success to you all because of our constant learning through our own independent explorations and discoveries.

EARLY RENAISSANCE - BELLINI CLASS

This fall, Bellini students became acquainted with each other and with the classroom and it's materials. We started off the year by researching and discussing the life of Giovanni Bellini in preparation for our wonderful Renaissance Faire. Students used encyclopedias, factual books, and the internet to conduct their research and put together a phenomenal poster reporting details of his life. Each student worked together to combine and organize their innovative ideas for the Bellini poster. It was a fun and exciting team building experience for all students. We anticipate a wonderful school year!



“Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.”

~Thomas H. Huxley

MATH & SCIENCE

Renaissance also places major emphasis on strong math skills and performance. In addition to working conceptually and with math manipulatives as part of individual work plans, this year students are also meeting in small leveled groups for focused learning. This multi-faceted teaching approach will aim at helping learners of all styles to reach their highest potential in mathematics.

Our science program received a jump start this year when we traveled to Camp Eberhart in Three Rivers, Michigan, for our annual three day educational adventure. Students expanded their knowledge of the world through studies of flora and fauna, as well as observations of stars and galaxies in the night sky as they explored the camp. Students

also gained confidence and know-how as they canoed, climbed rope courses and rock walls, and joined in games and activities. With one hundred

Renaissance campers in attendance; team building and working together became important themes of the camp. As

always, another important theme was educational fun, and everyone reported having plenty of that!



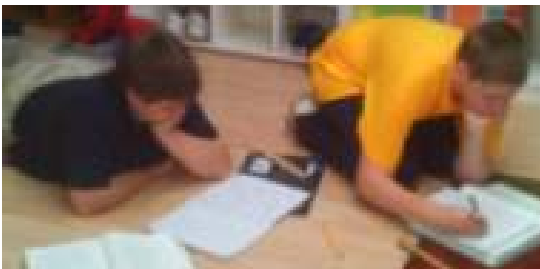


R STUDENTS LEARN ALL THE MOVES IN CHESS

Michiana Area K-8 Chess Tournament
Hosted by Renaissance Academy

Sat., November 5 - 9:30 am -1:30 pm
At Marquette Catholic High School

LATE RENAISSANCE DESCARTES CLASS



Greetings from the fabulous Descartes Classroom!! We are getting back into the swing of things after our amazing excursion to Camp Eberhart! Those were a fun but busy three days. We enjoyed the High Ropes Course, Canoeing, Archery, and Star Gazing. Although we are all still recovering, we had

such a memorable time and can't wait to go back again!

Our Descartes Ala Carte business is booming and we have already made over three hundred dollars! If you're out of the Ala Carte loop, our class offers coffee, tea, and assorted baked goods daily during our morning car-pool time. A big thanks to those parents who have given us their patronage, donated baked goods, or given supplies. We really appreciate your continuing support.

We have just finished up our first writing project, an autobiography. We also created visual time-lines of our lives. These were really neat to see, and for those parents who are awaiting the return of photos & keepsakes, they are coming home this week.

We are continuing our study of matter, energy, and the elements, and the kids are preparing for their second barrage of group presentations. Our Science and History Curriculum allows the Descartes Students to use the material to create informational posters and skits/songs to impart information to each other. They all do a great job, and it is a fun and exciting way to learn about these, sometimes, difficult concepts.

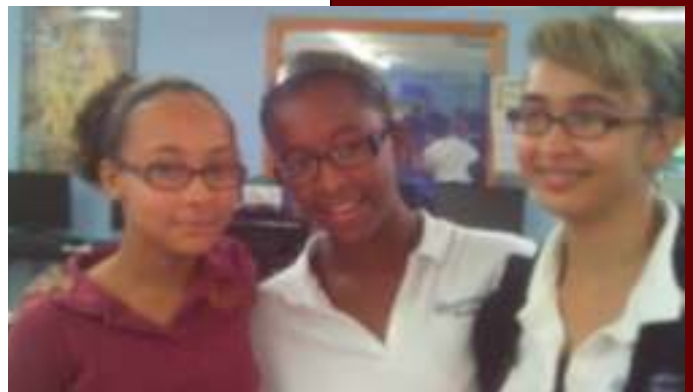
As parent-teacher conferences draw close, the students are preparing tell you all about their progress and the things we do each day. If you have a day/time preference, please email Ms. T. asap. Keep in mind, that your child will be leading this meeting, so choose a time that they are free to attend as well.

What a pleasure it has been to get to know each other and really get going in Descartes!! We are all excited for a mentally stimulating and exciting year of school!



"You can't connect the dots looking forward you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something: your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. Because believing that the dots will connect down the road will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well worn path."

~Steve Jobs



SPORTS, ATHLETICS

Athletes big and small scored love-love for the fall tennis program. Students learned basic game rules and techniques while practicing their moves on the courts with the help of Ms. Vicki, Ms. Tanya, and the professional coaches from the club. Thanks to Northwest Athletic Club for making the program affordable for our students!

A record number of students signed up for our Fall Basketball Clinics this year and every one reported having a great time. Unfortunately due to the onset of rainy weather we will have to wait for spring for another clinic but Basketball season will be stating in November for the older students!

Our Renaissance Lions Cross Country Team had a strong season under the guidance of Coach Eileen and Art Lilly. Runners from preschool to 8th grade competed in five area meets learning the ins and outs of healthy running and good sportsmanship.

Many of those runners really strutted their stuff when they joined in our first ever Renaissance 5\K Run at Stone Lake in LaPorte.

Over one hundred runners participated in this fun and fund raising event. Many of our own Renaissance students and parents captured first place in their age divisions, and all the runners who finished were thrilled with their accomplishment. **Thanks to Ann Bates, Art Lilly, and Gary Radke** for organizing this fantastic event and thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it run so smoothly!



Renaissance 5k Run Age Place/Overall Place

Female 3-5

Avery Mougín 1/43

Male 3-5

Mason LaBounty 1/26

Female 7-11

Mackenzie Mallon 1/21

Male 7-11

Luke Carroll 1/17

Female 12-14

Tori McHugh 1/71

Male 12-14

Nathan Deterville 1/13

Male 15-19

Eric Deterville 1/1

Female 20-24

Jessica Kowalski 1/19

Male 20-24

James Hershberger 1/2

Female 25-29

Annmarie Bunton 1/27

Male 25-29

Justin Goins 1/5

Female 30-34

Kristina Mallon 1/46

Male 30-34

Craig Leffert 1/98

Female 35-39

Tanya Toth 1/48

Male 35-39

Brian Seyring 1/4

Female 40-44

Lisa Snyder 1/9

Male 40-44

Chris Snyder 1/6

Female 45-49

Lynn Gordon 1/28

Male 45-49

Joe Toth 1/3

Female 50-54

Shelley Abbott 1/11

Male 50-54

Dale Uhlemann 1/12

Female 55-59

Susan Kowalski 1/90

Male 55-59

Larry Spaeth 1/16

Female 60-64

Amelia Wilson 1/89

Male 60-64

Steve Baker 1/78

Female 65-69

Joan Radtke 1/36

Male 65-69

Gary Radtke 1/27



Luke Carroll 1/17 &
#1 Student Overall
Erik Hultgren 2/18 &
#2 Student Overall



Brian Seyring 1/4



Chris Snyder 1/6

Renaissance Runners
Experience the
Joy of Running...
and Winning!



Avery Mougín
1/43



Mackenzie Mallon
1/21 & #1 Female
Student Overall



Lisa Snyder 1/9 & Top Female Overall

Renaissance Academy

Experience the Joy of Learning

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THE RENAISSANCE RUN (cont. from page 9...)

Many kilometers of thanks to our generous sponsors!



“A vigorous five-mile walk will do more good for an unhappy but otherwise healthy adult than all the medicine and psychology in the world.”

~ Paul Dudley White



Run, Run, Run... People large and small, plus strollers, a wheel chair, two dogs, and one pony, were all spotted along the path during this great event. It was a beautiful day and we saw many enthusiastic runners. Serious athletes (one finished in 19 min.) and casual contenders all seemed to have a wonderful time!