



Renaissance Report

DECEMBER 11, 2017.

**Check out the new
website for more
school-related
information!**

<http://renaissancepsa.com/>



**The first day of Winter Break is
December 21st. We come back to
school on Wednesday January 3rd!**

Take a peek!

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PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

A note from Mrs. Bergman

FEATURED THIS WEEK:

**989 Food and Personal
Care Items Drive**

School Closures and Delays



MY OFFICE WAS FILLED!

Special thanks to all of the students and families who donated nonperishable food and personal care items to our annual food drive. As of last Friday morning I could not longer get into my office without climbing over my desk because the entire floor was covered with donations. Once sorted, we had over 45 boxes of food and personal care items collected. Those items will be used to fill holiday boxes for families in need at our school and across our community.

As a special incentive this year, Mr. Papenfus agreed to dye his beard if we met our goal. This week students will have the opportunity to color in a picture of Mr. P's beard as we determine just how silly we are going to make him look with a multi-colored beard.



SCHOOL CLOSURES AND DELAYS

The determination to delay or cancel school for Renaissance Public School Academy is made based on the recommendations from our surrounding school districts. Our surrounding school district's Superintendents, transportation directors, local road commissions and law enforcement begin to check roads as early as 4:00 am. A decision is made based on current conditions and predicted conditions. Conditions considered include snowfall amounts, visibility (fog or blowing snow), drifted roads, icy roads and temperatures. If the actual temperature is below -25 school will be cancelled. We will consider cancelling at -20 depending on the forecast. Temperature is taken into consideration because of frostbite potential. Safety is always first and foremost.

RPSA families with a current phone number on file will receive a text message each time a delay or cancellation is issued for our school. Families will also receive an email notification if a current email is on file. If you are not receiving text and email updates from school please stop by the office to update your phone and email address.





Kindergarten Concert:

December 18th

2:30 PM

Please join us for our kindergarten concert on December 18th. The students will be performing a selection of songs and activities that they have been working on in music class.

This is not a holiday concert, but a chance for us to show off what we have learned in class. Specific clothes are not needed, but many families will be dressing up for the occasion.

If you have questions, please contact RPSA's music teacher, Joel Wiseman, at jwiseman@renaissancepsa.com



The Voyager, Islander, and Band Concert is fast approaching!

When: December 19th at 8:15 and 2:20

8:15 am Music Concert

Classes Participating:

Ms. Nemeth

Mrs. Lindsay

Mrs. Assmann

Mrs. Schaar

2:20 pm Music Concert

Classes Participating:

Miss Brown

Mrs. MacLaren

Mr. Koster

Ms. Guillen

Middle school and Trailblazer band students will be playing at both the 8:15 & 2:20 concerts.

Students should plan to wear a combination of red, green, and white that day. The concert is expected to last an hour.

Questions: email Mr. Wiseman at jwiseman@renaissancepsa.com

A Note from Parent Club

RPSA Parent Club is offering a Holiday Shop again this year! Your child should have received a flyer and envelope last week. Children will have the opportunity to shop for loved ones on December 14th & 15th. Each class will be given a specific time to shop.

There will be adults on-hand to assist students with their shopping.

Please see Brandy Reihl in the office if you are able to help our students shop either of those days. Thank you!





Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is underway! Many students have expressed interest in the program and have selected books to begin reading. A permission form will be sent home this week and is included in this newsletter. The form is due Friday, December 15 and will indicate the student's willingness to commit as a team member. Each person on a team will be responsible for reading and knowing 3-5 books so the full team will have at least one expert in each of the 20 titles.

Teams will be formed on December 19 and 20. We will form teams in part based on books being read so that there will be equal representation of each title. We will honor student requests to be on teams together as best we can.

We need additional volunteers to serve as team coaches and others to help write practice questions.

More information on Battle of the Books can be found at <http://www.midland-mi.org/510/Battle-of-the-Books> Let us know your interest in volunteering or ask additional questions by contacting Mr.

Mayer, Curriculum Director, at hmayer@renaissancepsa.com

Battle of the Books 2017-2018

Participant Commitment Form

Renaissance Academy fourth and fifth-grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a Battle of the Books reading competition. Students will read at least 3 to 4 books from the official list of 20 books selected by the librarians at the Grace A. Dow Library in Midland. Multiple copies of each book are available at school for students to check out. Each team is composed of 6-8 students, and they will compete against teams from other schools in a series of written and oral battles. The highest scoring teams from each round will advance to the next round. We will arrange student transportation via school bus for each battle. Spectators are not allowed to view the written and oral battles and will wait in a designated area for the battle to be completed. School practice battles will take place during lunch time. Third-grade students will be able to read and participate in school practice battles in preparation to participate on the formal team next school year. Sixth-grade students are able to read, help generate questions, participate in school practice battles and collaborate with teams as assistant coaches. Unfortunately, third and sixth-grade students are not eligible for the official battles this school year and do not need a permission form completed.

Event Schedule

1st Written Battle Tuesday, February 6 at 4:30 p.m. Bullock Creek Floyd Elem. (anticipated)
2nd Written Battle Tuesday, February 13 at 4:30 p.m. Midland Northeast Middle School
Oral Battle Day Saturday, February 24 (a.m. or p.m.) Midland Grace A. Dow Library
Championship Thursday, March 1 at 4:30 p.m. Midland Library Auditorium

Fourth and fifth-grade students must have parent permission to participate. Team members will be counting on each other to complete their assigned reading and be ready to participate.

My child _____ Grade: ☐ Fourth ☐ Fifth
has my permission to participate in the 2017-2018 Battle of the Books competition.

Parent Signature

Parent Name (Printed) Date

_____ I would be willing to assist as a team captain or volunteer. Each team needs a different adult team captain. Captains and volunteers assist students by reading books, preparing practice questions, assisting with practice battles when possible, traveling to the battles, and offering encouragement.

Phone number

Email address

Leader of the Month

A celebration for our November Leader of the Month students will be held Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30 am in the cafeteria.

Students who were nominated by a staff member received an invitation last week for their family to attend. Juice and donuts will be served.

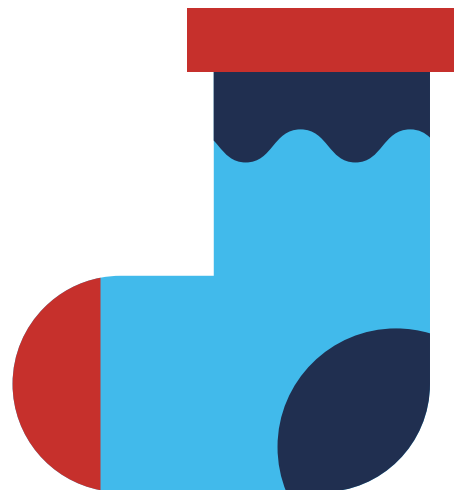


RPSA SPIRIT WEEK IS ALMOST HERE!

We are approaching the Winter Break, so why not have a little fun?!

We hope the students will join us in dressing up!

December 13 Wacky Hair Day
December 14 Hat/Scarf Day
December 15 Mismatch Day
December 18 Holiday Sock Day
December 19 Red/Green/White Day
December 20 PJ DAY!



Kindergarten News



Literacy

Theme-SNOW
Ending Sounds
-Sight words:
with me

Math

Measurement
Vocab. Words:
Longer, shorter,
bigger, smaller

Writing

Letters:
Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu
Punctuation Marks:
. ! ?

Science & Social Studies

Life Science
Who am I?

Reminders & Events

*Kindergarten Concert
Monday, December 18, 2:30

*Winter Clothes are needed for recess,
Hats, gloves/mittens, winter jackets, (boots, snowpants will be
needed sooooooon!!)



Voyager Newsletter



Academics



In math, our students will be reviewing addition and subtraction with regrouping, missing addends, and fact families .

In reading, our students will be reading Berenstein Bears Dollars and Sense. Students will be learning about idioms throughout the week.

In science, our students are learning about the Earth, Moon and Stars. Students will learn that patterns we observe in the sky help us make predictions.

In writing, our students will continue learning about text features and the importance of use in informational writing.

Upcoming Important Dates:

December 14: Field Trip
December 14&15: Secret Santa Shop
December 19: Music Concert
December 21: Holiday Break Begins

Beginning this Wednesday: Spirit Week

12/13 - Wacky Hair Day
12/14 - Hat/Scarf Day
12/15 - Mismatch Day
12/18 - Holiday Sock Day
12/19 - Red/Green/White Day
12/20 - PJ Day



Classroom News

Renaissance Islanders

December 4th- December 8th



This Week's Learning

Literacy: We will continue our unit on Nonfiction Genre while learning how to use text structure to comprehend a text.

Math: We are hitting long division and fractions; especially how to determine if two fractions are equivalent.

Writing: We will use our knowledge from informational text structures to begin our next big writing project - writing an informational piece

Science: We are learning how animal/plant structures affect how their functions work and how animals use these structures to survive and adapt to their surroundings.

Staying Up To Date

*We still need a lot of cardboard boxes of all sizes. Thank you!

*Please ask your child to show you how to complete a long division problem such as $568 \div 3$ OR have them explain the steps needed to complete a problem..

*If your child's focus has been fractions, then have them help find and use fractions around your home.

Important Dates

Next Tuesday - Music concert. We are not all together, so please check the times.
SPIRIT WEEK begins this Wednesday - next Wednesday. Themes are noted on another page in this newsletter



Week at a Glance

December 11 - December 15

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Big Events and Happenings			EARLY RELEASE 12/13 - Wacky Hair Day	12/14 - Hat/Scarf Day	THE AMAZING RACE 12/15 - Mismatch Day

Weekly Summaries

MATH	LITERACY	WRITING	SCIENCE
Fraction operations OR Expressions and Equations OR Working with Inequalities Ask your child which topic they are working on.	Analyzing text features of informational books.	Cause and Effect	Climate vs Weather -Uneven heating of the Earth -Greenhouse Effect

Middle School Happenings December 11 - December 15

**STUDY LAB Tuesday & Thursday
3:30 - 4:30**

Math	English/ Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
Mr. Buzard's math classes have moved on to linear equations. Both classes are solving equations in 1 variable and 2 variables. Students are also determining whether equations have one solution, no solution, or infinite solutions. Mr. McCausey's students are working on algebraic equations.	We have started argument writing in ELA. We are currently studying ethos, pathos and logos so we can apply these to our arguments.	In science class, the students are now working on energy, including different forms of energy.	We completed our congressional hearings, and the students did amazing! It was a great week and they put in a lot of hard work.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Major Assignment, Assessments and Events		Study Lab in McCausey's room 3:30 - 4:30		Study Lab in Hubbell's room 3:30 - 4:30	

Middle School Mock Congressional Hearings December 8, 2017

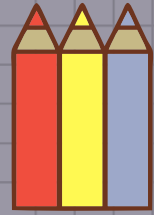
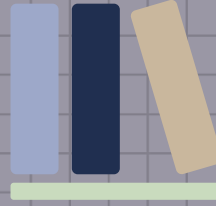
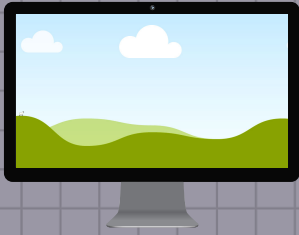


Mrs. Hubbell & Mr.
Buzard's
Social Studies
Classes

On Friday, we used our We the People curriculum for social studies and held a mock Congressional hearing. Students had four minutes to present and had to answer questions for six minutes from the judges. They did an amazing job!

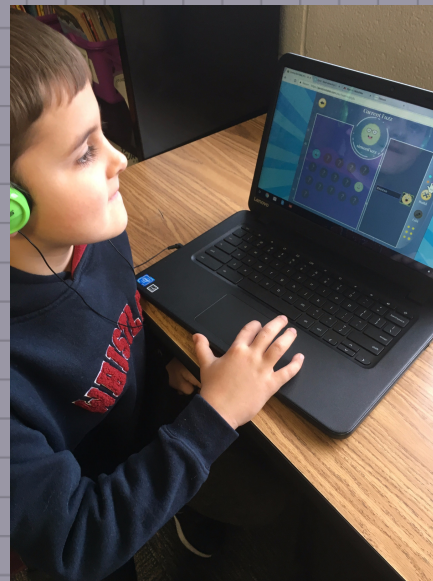
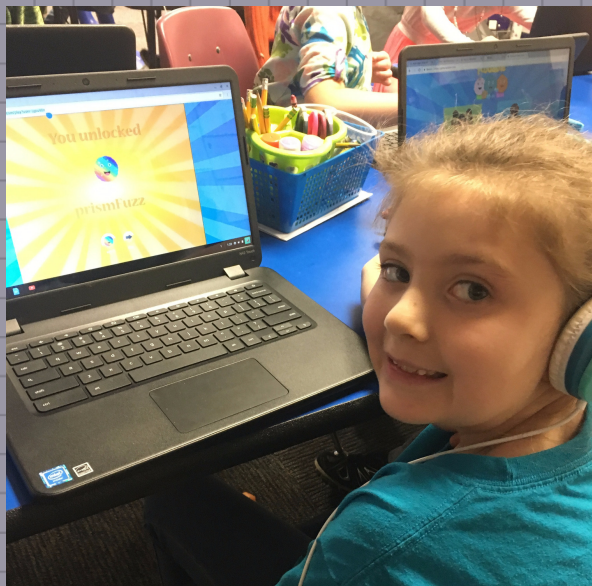
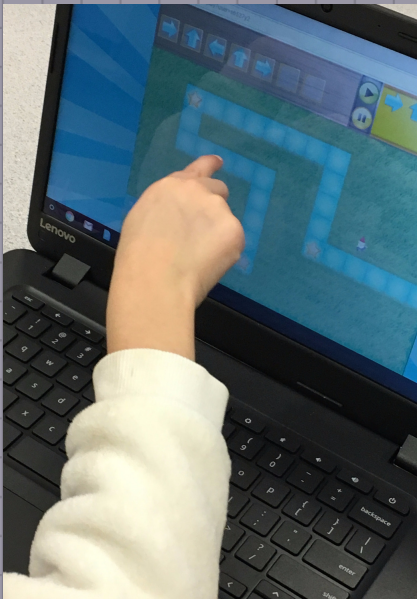


Specials and Enhancements



The Hour of Code!

Last week, most RPSA students participated in the event: The Hour of Code!



More information about The Hour of Code can be found at code.org!



Rams Athletics



Boys Basketball

The Renaissance "A" Team will travel to St. Peter (Big Rapids) on Monday, December 11. The bus will leave Renaissance at 5:15, which is a change from the schedule. The game will start at 6:30pm.

December 14, the Renaissance "A/B" Teams will be in action at home...starting at 5:30pm, with the "A" game to follow the "B" game.

Cheer Team

The Renaissance Cheer Team continues its work on improving as they gear up for competition month. Announcements are coming soon on competition dates.

General Athletics Announcements

The cheer team and basketball team pictures will be moved to the front office for easier pick up before the holidays. If you do not pick them up, they will be given out at the banquet.

The girls basketball informational meeting has been scheduled for January 9 in Mr. McCausey's classroom. The meeting will start at 5:15pm. All 5th - 8th grade girls interested in playing (as well as their families) are invited/encouraged to attend. Girls that plan on playing should not wait to get physicals.



Girls on the Run

The spring session of Girls on the Run begins March 12 and is open to girls in third, fourth, and fifth grades. Registration will open in February. Fee scholarship applications are available on a first come, first served basis and are available now. You will receive a code to use when completing the registration form in February. Visit

<http://www.gotrcentralmichigan.org/>. Click “Register Now” and then select “Spring Scholarship Application”

Volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are also needed. Training and lesson materials are provided. Please check out

<http://www.gotrcentralmichigan.org/> to learn more about the programs and to volunteer.