



# Renaissance Report

DECEMBER 18, 2017.



## Winter Break:

**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:

Spirit Week

Lost and Found Items



**As we finish out Spirit Week at RPSA, we wish you all a safe and relaxing Winter Break!**

**RPSA SPIRIT WEEK IS HERE!**

We are approaching the Winter Break, so why not have a little fun?!  
We hope the students will join us in dressing up the next two days!

\*December 19 Red/Green/White Day  
\*December 20 PJ DAY!



**Please check out our lost & found right as you walk into the main part of our building. It has become quite a large amount of items. Anything left during Holiday Break will be donated.**





# The Voyager, Islander, and Band Concert is tomorrow!

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

Add a little bit of body text

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](mailto:jwiseman@renaissancepsa.com)



# 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](mailto: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.

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

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Parent Signature

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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.

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Phone number

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Email address



# Leader of the Month



November's  
Leaders!



Our celebration for the November Leader of the Month students was held December 12th. Classroom teachers, specials teachers, and other Renaissance staff chose these student leaders because they have demonstrated one or more of the 7 Habits of Leadership during the month of November. Twenty-six total students were selected, check out the bulletin board in the lobby for a complete list.

# A Note from Parent Club

Parent Club would like to thank everyone who shopped and volunteered at the Holiday Shop on Friday!



## Preschool News

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! We hope that you all have a fun and safe winter break! See you in the NEW YEAR!!

-Mrs. Simon and Mrs. Binns



### EVENTS THIS week!

Monday-HOLIDAY SOCKS

Tuesday-RED/Green/WHITE Day

Wednesday-PJ Day and Early release at 2 PM



# Kindergarten News



## Literacy

- Beginning Sounds
- Stretching out words
- Sight word - with, come, my, me

## Math

- Numbers 1-10
- Number order
- Comparing Numbers, more, less

## Writing

Gingerbread Stories

## Science & Social Studies Life Science

## \*Reminders & Events\*

\*Kindergarten Concert - 2:30 on Monday, December 18  
Students will be allowed to leave right after the concert

*\*Please send a plastic bag for ALL items in lockers*

Lockers will be cleaned over break



# Voyager Newsletter

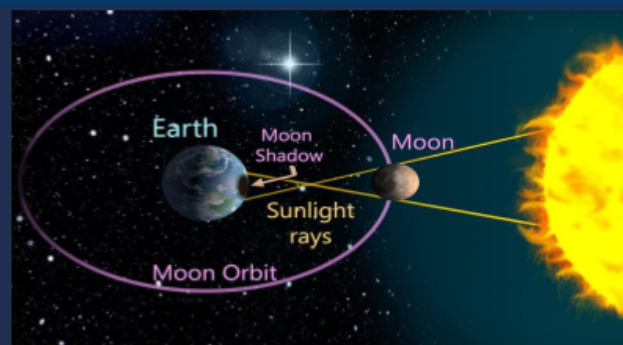
## Academics:

This week we are going to do many activities covering multiple reading, math, and writing skills.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Break!



Students just completed the unit on the Sun, Moon and Stars. Answering the essential question: How can the patterns we observe in the sky help us make predictions? During this unit, we went to the Zspace and learned using new technology. The students were very excited about this wonderful experience. Please ask your child what they learned about the Sun, Moon and Stars.





# Classroom News

Renaissance Islanders

December 18 - December 20



## This Week's Learning

**Literacy:** Please have your child read 30 minutes every day during break.

**Math:** Try to fit in fraction practice and the other basic facts. Websites your child is very familiar with: [XtraMath](https://www.xtramath.com) and [khanacademy.com](https://www.khanacademy.com)

**Writing:** If your child has access to the internet and gmail, have them write their teacher an email telling them all about the break.

**Science:** We will begin our big project on structures/functions soon.

## Staying Up To Date

- PLEASE send your child's backpack every day - WE ARE CLEANING OUT LOCKERS ON TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY
- A few backpacks are already full. Have your child clean them out at home today so there is room for locker cleaning.
- ALL snacks, boots, extra coats, etc must come home before break
- Beginning Wonder Workshop presentations this week

## Important Dates

MUSIC CONCERT - TUESDAY  
8:15 Lindsay, Nemeth  
2:20 Guillen, Koster  
\*\* Spirit WEEK \*\*

Tuesday - red, green, white  
Wednesday - PJ Day

# Middle School Happenings

## December 18 - December 20

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

Math	English/ Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
<p><b>Mr. McCausey:</b> Math 1 will be starting their work with Algebraic Real-World problem solving next week. Math 2 will be finishing up Equations and Expressions with Inequalities next week.</p> <p><b>Mr.. Buzard:</b> Math 1 has finished their assessment on linear equations and will be moving on to slope-intercept form. Math 2 is working on linear equations and consistent, inconsistent, and identity equations.</p>	<p>Students in Mrs. Hubbell's class should have picked their topic for their argument paper. We will be working on a good strong introduction to our arguments.</p> <p>In Mrs. Liphard's class, students are beginning their Argument Writing. They are also focusing on symbolism with character traits in the books they're currently reading. They are continuing their 40 Book Challenge, so continue to encourage reading at home.</p>	<p>Students have started their Projects. They are exploring Thermal Energy with the creation of a device/model that takes the thermal energy change from a chemical reaction and uses it to do something different than it would normally be used for.</p> <p>Students will be conducting a lab next week exploring the question: How can the difference between thermal energy and temperature be experimentally observed?</p>	<p>We are digging deeper into the first three presidents. We have learned a lot about Washington and this week's focus will be Adams.</p>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Major Assignment, Assessments and Events		Study Lab in Hubbell's room 3:30 - 4:30	Phase 1 of the Trimester 2 Science Project is due today.	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

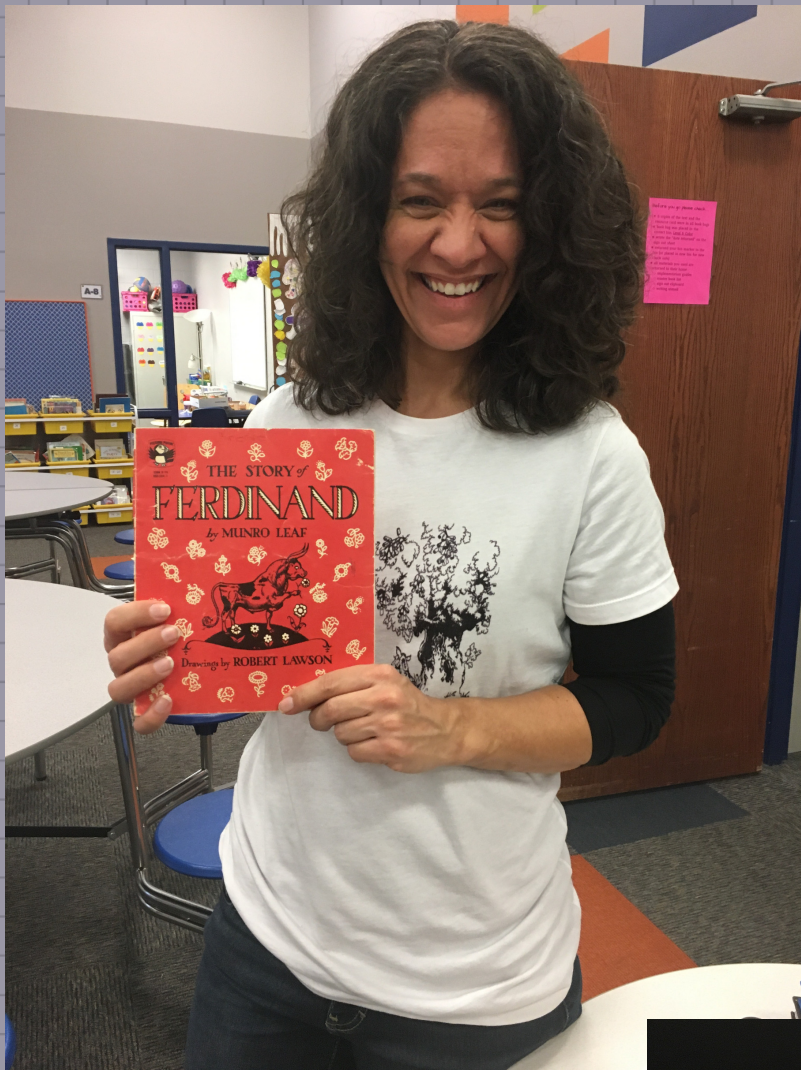
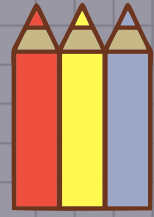
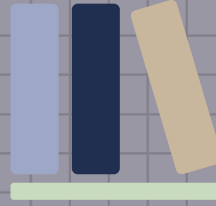
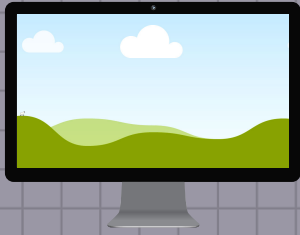
**Today will be an exciting basketball experience at RPSA: The two 'A' teams will be playing each other here at 5:30 in our home gym!**

**Please come out and support our Rams Athletics!**

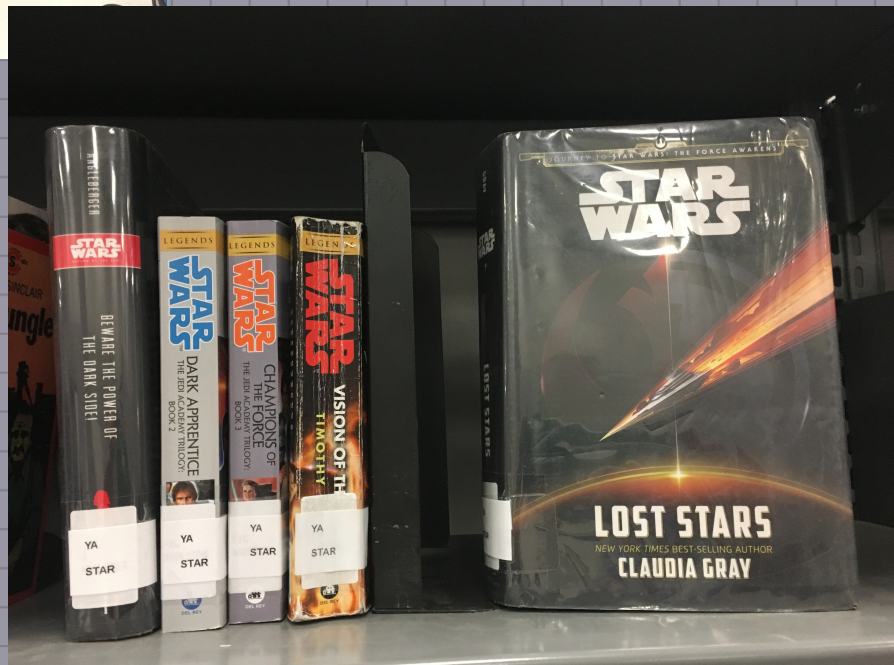




# Specials and Enhancements



**With the holiday season comes new movies in the theaters! You may have noticed that a few of the new releases (Justice League, Star Wars The Last Jedi, and Ferdinand) have literary connections. Be sure to visit Mrs. Doyle to get your hands on these great books to enjoy over the break!**





# Rams Athletics



## Boys Basketball:

The December 11th game has been rescheduled for January 15, 2018. The game will be held at St. Peter in Big Rapids at 6:30. The bus will leave at 5:15.

We are working on rescheduling the December 14 game.

Monday, December 18, the Rams "A" team will take on the Renaissance "A" team. The action is set to begin at 5:30. Come on out and support both of your Rams teams.

## Cheer News:

The cheer team continues to practice and improve as they prepare for their competition. Details will be coming home soon, but the competition will be held at the end of February. Student-athletes and families need to keep this in mind when considering girls basketball. The cheer team will continue to practice and prepare for their competition during the girls basketball season. Girls that are on the cheer team will be expected to attend both practices, until their season is over.

## Girls Basketball:

The informational meeting is scheduled for January 9 in Mr. McCausey's classroom at 5:15 PM. All students and their families are encouraged to attend.

Tryouts will take place on January 16. Students must have their physical forms completed by a physician in order to tryout for the team. Those forms should be given to the coach. Athletes that have already received physicals (cross-country or cheer) do not need to get another physical.

## General Athletics Announcements:

The Renaissance Athletics Department appreciates and encourages all families to volunteer to work at least one game throughout the season. We cannot make athletics happen without your help. I have been told that we have some open dates available for volunteer workers at upcoming basketball games. See Mr.

McConnell if you are interested, or send us an email:

[dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com)

[smcconnell@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:smcconnell@renaissancepsa.com)





# 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.**