



May 18, 2022

Dear RPSA Families,

The newsletter will be your source of lots of important information over the next few weeks as we bring the school year to a close. Be sure to check it every Wednesday for dates, times and announcements.

### **The RPSA PTO Advisory Board**

The school PTO is once again looking for input from the larger school community. Over the course of the next few weeks the PTO will be seeking nominations for board members including president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. If you are interested in learning more, would like to nominate someone or have interest in joining the PTO, please contact them at [renaissanceramspto@gmail.com](mailto:renaissanceramspto@gmail.com). Nominations are being accepted through May 27th.

### **MPACF Give Local Isabella 2022 Fundraiser Event Totals**

The Renaissance Public School Academy fund grew by \$17,712.89 in just a 24 hour period on May 3 thanks to the tremendous support of 108 unique donors. RPSA won the Happy Hour, Night Owl, Most First Time Donors, Most Peer Fundraising and Most Unique Donors awards, each worth \$500. Heather Pastotnik, an RPSA staff member, raised \$845 through her peer to peer efforts. Added to our current fund which has \$33,846, we now have close to **\$51,560** in the RPSA Fund with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation.

### **Enrollment**

We have limited spots available for a few grades for next school year. We have wait lists in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. If you know of anyone looking to join our Renaissance family, please have them contact Ms. Brandy at 989-772-8300 or by email at [breihl@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:breihl@renaissancepsa.com).

### **American Rescue Plan Funds**

The federal government is providing one-time funding to schools to mitigate the impact of interrupted instructional time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools must adhere to Department of Education guidelines on how the funds can be spent and must seek plan approval before allocating funds.

We appreciate the feedback you provided in our December survey as we began our planning process. This helped to give us a focused direction as we considered ways to support students across all grade levels. Renaissance Academy intends to use the ARP funds equally over the next two school years. The pandemic impacted our community for multiple years, and it will take multiple years of focused attention to help all students build a solid understanding of foundational academic and social/emotional skills.

Our plan places student needs at the center of identifying resources and supports. A majority of the funding will be used for additional staff. This includes:

- Additional targeted literacy instruction by trained interventionist teachers
- A full-time trained math interventionist teacher
- Behavioral interventionists dedicated to help students ease frustrations that prevent them from being successful in the classroom

A portion of the funding will also be used to refresh our classroom instructional materials. Materials were reviewed and selected based on how well they incorporate evidence-based instructional approaches, align with our established Renaissance Defining Practices, and their proven success. The key features of our new Bookworms elementary English Language Arts curriculum include:

- Exploring a wide variety of high quality, diverse books
- Explicit instruction in phonics and foundational literacy skills
- Integration of writing in response to reading and class discussions
- A thorough collection of resources so that teachers can meet students' current needs and develop individualized paths for increasing student achievement

The key features of our new enVision mathematics instructional materials include:

- Consistent use and development of vocabulary across grade levels
- Number talks where students are invited to collaborate to solve problems and share their thinking
- Student choice in end of unit projects
- Scaffolded materials to assess students' current abilities and to provide options for supporting new learning

In the 2023-24 school year, a small portion of funding will be used to replace two classroom set of student chromebooks.

We invite you to offer additional comments on our proposed planned use of ARP funds. We will host a coffee chat following student drop off next Wednesday morning, May 25 at 8:00 a.m. You may also share your thoughts via email to Henry Mayer, Dean of Instruction, at [hmayer@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:hmayer@renaissancepsa.com).

## UPCOMING SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

- **Friday, May 27 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- **Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF**
- **Thursday, June 9 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

*Last week we shared a fun Reading BINGO board to help get your child excited about reading at home. This week we'd like to showcase some great ideas for helping with Math at home. The following graphic shares 11 easy ways to incorporate Math into everyday tasks and encourage your child's learning outside of school. Check them out:*

**Ways a Parent Can Help with MATH**

- 1 Look for shapes and patterns in real life
- 2 Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making
- 3 Ask your child to explain the math skills he or she is working on in school
- 4 When helping your child with homework or school assignments, ask him or her to explain how he or she got an answer
- 5 Help your child find some appropriate number and problem-solving games to play online
- 6 Play card or board games that involve counting or patterns
- 7 Ask your child to count change at the grocery store, or to estimate the total cost while you are shopping
- 8 Compare:  
Which is the tallest?  
...the heaviest?  
...the longest?  
...the smallest?  
...the fastest?  
...the hottest?  
...the most expensive?
- 9 Have tools such as a ruler, a scale, a calculator, and a measuring tape available to use in your house
- 10 Encourage your child to track or graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team
- 11 Use dice or playing cards to make a game out of practicing math facts

**Point out ways math is part of "real" life:**  
money, computers, music, art, construction, cooking...  
All around us, every day.

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*Congratulations to Our Walkathon Prize Winners!*

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WALKATHON!**

**TOTAL RAISED:**  
**\$3,218**

**PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS**

**FIRST PRIZE: CONNOR & LOGAN RUDY**

**SECOND PRIZE: JOHNNY PATTISON**

**THIRD PRIZE: ADDISON NORTH**

**FOURTH PRIZE: MCKENNA STARK**

**FIFTH PRIZE: AYOMIDE ABIMBOLA**

**SIXTH PRIZE: RAIDYN RAAB**

**THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

