

The Renaissance

OCTOBER 2006

35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372
 www.renaissancecharter.org • 718-803-0060 • 718-803-3785 (fax)

Charter School

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS:

Welcome to another wonderful TRCS academic year.

We hope everyone is getting accustomed to the flow of the school routine. If you have not attended the curriculum night, please be sure to schedule time with your child's teacher to address any questions you have about what is expected. Parent, student, teacher and administration collaboration is essential to your child succeeding. Parent reps are listed in this newsletter as another resource for you. Stay tuned for the upcoming events for which we would appreciate your involvement. Suggestions are always welcomed.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next PTA general meeting on October 18 and our annual pasta night on October 27.

Your support, through fund-raising and/or dues is necessary and greatly appreciated.
 Sincerely - *Geri & Mavis, Co-Presidents*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER PTA MEETING:

Please attend the next PTA meeting on October 18!

By Noreen Wortman

- Nicholas thanked the PTA for money used to supplement library;
- Theresa from the Music Conservatory spoke briefly about music program;
- Geraldine introduced the principal and co-directors;
- Stacey spoke about recent changes implemented at the beginning of this school year regarding dismissal and arrival times. She further explained that the changes were put in place with safety of students as its #1 goal and emphasized the school's philosophy that TRCS is committed to its parent friendly atmosphere;
- Reminder to parents: We are on TRCS time – 5 minutes ahead of normal time;
- Monte spoke briefly about some of the new curriculum programs for the school year:
 - 1) Applying for grant from National Geographic Educational Foundation, "Matrix Geographic" – \$250,000 over 2 years;
 - 2) Already partner with NYC for Geographical Learning, K-12 project out of Hunter College;
 - 3) Learning Center will now be manned by Emily Byrum;
 - 4) 8th grade ELA scores up 15 points;
 - 5) H.S. is "kicking"! We have 2 new science teachers on board. TRCS goal is to have the H.S. known for its math and science with at least 60% of the students taking calculus;
- Cluster Reports:
 - Lillian, Cluster 1 (Grades K-3)
 - 1) Welcomed new parents;
 - 2) Stacey spoke to cluster 1 parents regarding the After-School Program;
 - 3) Discussed homework assignments for kindergarten and 1st grades;
 - Winnie, Cluster 2 (Grades 4-5)
 - 1) Discussed fund-raising for the Nature's Classroom trip;
 - 2) Jake gave a brief CSG description;
 - 3) Tentative Halloween Dance fund-raiser;

Board of Trustees

Founders Group	Dr. Monte Joffe
Founders Group	Sandy Geyer
Founders Group	Nancy Condyles
Founders Group	Stacey Gauthier, Secretary
Founders Group	Francine Smith
Appointed Staff	Shelley Brevda, CCC/SLP
Appointed Staff	Gwen Clinkscales
Appointed Parent	Mary Anderson, Esq.
Community Rep.	Andrew Jackson, Chairperson
Community Rep.	Dr. Lenore Gall
Community Rep.	Margaret Martinez-Delucia
Community Rep.	Hon. Jimmy Smith
Elected Parent	Vilma Cuadrado, R.N.
Elected Teacher	Yumeris Morel

Collaborative School Governance

Cluster 1 (K-3)	Kirsten Westphal
Cluster 2 (4,5)	Jacob Levich
Cluster 3 (6-8)	Karen Joseph
Cluster 4 (9,10)	Mark Satinoff
Cluster 5 (11,12)	Eileen Sanders
Special Needs	Irene Attilio
Parents at Large	Jim Stonebraker
Parents at Large	Suman Sharma

PTA Executive Board

Co-President, K-8	Geraldine Neary
Co-President, HS	Mavis Hall
VP. Cluster 1 (K-3)	Lillian Chen
VP. Cluster 2 (4,5)	Winnie Reyes
VP. Cluster 3 (6-8)	Celeste Balducci
VP. Cluster 4 (9,10)	OPEN
VP. Cluster 5 (11,12)	Eileen Sanders
Treasurer	Hannah Li
Recording Secretary	Noreen Wortman
Corresponding Secretary	Jim Stonebraker

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

M	2	Yom Kippur - No School
W	4	CSG, 5 p.m. Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
M	9	Columbus Day - No School
W	11	PTA Executive Board, 6:15 pm
T-M	17-23	Scholastic Book Fair
W	18	PTA General Meeting, 7 p.m.
M-T	23-31	KidArt Cards
F	27	Costume Pasta Night

Celeste, Cluster 3 (Grades 6-8)

- 1) Discussed middle school initiatives program;
- 2) Discussion of the extended day program and its advanced and remedial classes offered to the students. The program was implemented not so much for the grades but because students were not prepared when entering H.S.;
- 3) 6th grade parents impressed with Helen and the Spanish program she is implementing. They expressed strong concerns regarding the elementary Spanish program currently in place and the fact that most of the students entering middle school are not prepared;

Eileen, Clusters 4 and 5 (Grades 9-12)

- 1) Welcomed 9th grade parents;
- 2) H.S. Halloween Dance is October 27;

- Reminder: Pasta Night is October 27 – Fun night for whole family. \$5/person and a movie for the children will be set up in the room next to the PTA storage room;
 - Treasurer's Report:
 - 1) Bottom Line – \$11,560.76. Continued fund-raising efforts needed to provide for the needs of the school;
 - 2) The following items for approval at October PTA: teacher's choice supplement, staff holiday gift and teacher's wish list;
 - Rebekah Oakes – Director of Development and Arts Coordinator
Briefly spoke about some of the many Arts programs currently in place:
 - 1) Parents As Arts Partners grant application pending;
 - 2) Displayed some of the artwork from last year's program with the Noguchi Museum;
 - 3) The SAP Grant (which is part of NYSCA) involves playwriting for grades 6-8. Nick is working with the 9th graders in the critical thinking group;
 - 4) Queens Theatre in the Park for 9th graders;
 - 5) Robert is working with the H.S. students on a program called "Learning to Look". It is a separate program affiliated with the Noguchi Museum;
 - 6) Announced after-school music lessons are being offered through outside music company;
 - Introduction of Ballroom Dancing Program which is being coordinated by Margaret Scheff and Peggy Heeney who gave a brief discussion of what the program will entail;
 - Introduced parents to Jim Lawlor who is our Speech Therapist and ELL provider at TRCS;
 - Stacey thanked Jim Stonebraker and Kirsten Westphal for all of their assistance in coordinating and putting together the TRCS family handbook, which will be sent home via mail within a few weeks. Stacey also thanked Celia Irvine, Jim and Kirsten for their assistance in putting together the TRCS student support/disciplinary handbook which will also be sent home via mail. This will include H.S. policies and credits.
- (Meeting minutes pending review and approval at the October PTA meeting.)*

NOTES FROM YOUR PTA TREASURER:

By Hannah Li, hli57@yahoo.com or 718-803-0060, ext. 102

Items for membership discussion and vote at the October 18 PTA meeting:

- Teacher's choice supplement, \$50
- Staff holiday gift, \$25

ONGOING FUND-RAISERS:

Miss Chocolate remains our biggest fund-raiser for the PTA. The money will be used for the needs of the entire school. Every order counts large or small. Contact Hannah for more catalogs or more info.

Grades K-6 are participating in the Kid's Art Cards. Look for order forms. Just in time for the holidays. Contact Noreen Wortman for more information at nwortman74@yahoo.com or leave a message at 718-803-0060, ext. 102.

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to TRCS on October 17-23. Volunteers are needed during the school day to keep the fair open for the kids and teachers. Please contact Hilary Rogan or Hannah Li at hli57@yahoo.com or 718-803-0060, ext. 102.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES:

Parents/guardians are needed to be part of an After-School Committee. Input is needed to meet the growing needs of the program. Contact Celia Irvine at 347-885-5584 or Hannah at hli57@yahoo.com or 718-0803-0060, ext. 102, for more details.

Interested parents/guardians are invited to join the Arts Committee. The Arts Committee works with the faculty and the administration to support the visual and performing arts within the school. Please send your contact information to james.stonebraker@tiffany.com or call Rebekah Oakes, 718-803-0060, ext. 116.

JUST A REMINDER ...

Electronic devices including, MP3 Players, Walkmen, CD players, cell phones, beepers and iPods may be brought but not be turned on or used in the school building. TRCS is not responsible for the loss of any personal items.

FRIENDS AND STAFF:

For comments, suggestions and articles for future newsletters, please e-mail Hannah Li at hli57@yahoo.com or leave a disk or copy in Hannah's mailbox in the main office. Thanks for your participation!