

# The Renaissance

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

SUMMER 2007

## Charter School

### SUMMER EVENTS

A Sports and Science Camp will be offered to incoming Renaissance 9th graders and some 10th graders from July 16-27 as part of the Con Edison Science Leaders (CERSL) program. We received a grant from Con Ed last fall to help prepare 8th-12th grade students for science major tracks in college. We are excited by the response we have received, and anticipate that the high-level academic atmosphere together with the outdoor activities on the beautiful Colgate University campus will galvanize our students to a more positive attitude toward challenging science courses.

A special Summer Art Class will be offered, taught by Robert's student teacher Laura Cosgrove. It will be a collaboration between Laura and the students to respond to issues of school violence. Through the media of sculpture maquette, students will create a public art installation that will be a social and cultural statement towards those influences of violence, including the deaths of the five Amish girls last October as well as a response to ongoing incidents of school violence. Students will also create their own personal sculpture maquette that will be implemented into a large installation to be exhibited in a gallery space. The class will be on Monday-Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m. from July 9 through August 2.

### 2007 SUMMER SCHOOL

If you are interested in enrolling your student in our Summer program, please contact Fran Smith at bermuda1234@hotmail.com, 718-803-0060, x106 or in the main office.

**Dates:** Programs run between 2 to 5 weeks during the period of Monday, July 9 through Thursday, August 9

**Program Hours:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Thursday

**Breakfast:** 8:30-9 a.m.

**Lunch:** noon-1 p.m.

### K-12 Programs:

Grade Class	Instructor/s	Dates	Time
K-2 Literacy for All	Angela, Jim	7/9-7/19	9 a.m.-noon
K-4 Arts and Crafts	TBD	7/9-7/19	1-4 p.m.
K-4 Theatre Games	TBD	7/9-7/19	1-4 p.m.
3-4 Literacy for All	John	7/9-7/19	9 a.m.-noon
5-6 Literacy and Math for All	Janet	7/9-8/9	9 a.m.-noon
5-12 Open Gym	George, Alex	7/9-8/9	1-4 p.m.
7-8 Literacy and Math for All	Joanne, Dennis ET, Nancy, Emma	7/9-8/9	9 a.m.-noon
HS Placing Faces on Waves: Recording the Immigrant Experience in NYC	Jose	7/9-8/9	9 a.m.-noon
HS SAT Prep	Maura, Ana	7/9-8/2	9 a.m.-noon
HS Art through Sculpture	Laura	7/9-8/2	9-11:30 a.m.
HS NovaNet: Program for Credit Recovery	TBD	7/9-8/9	TBD

### Board of Trustees

Founders Group/Staff	Dr. Monte Joffee
Founders Group/Comm.	Sandy Geyer
Founders Group/Staff	Nancy Condyles
Founders Group/Staff	Stacey Gauthier, Secretary
Founders Group/Staff	Francine Smith
Appointed Parent	Mary Anderson, MSW
Community Rep.	Andrew Jackson, Chairperson
Community Rep.	Dr. Lenore Gall
Community Rep.	Margaret Martinez-Deluca
Community Rep.	Wilma Cuadrado, R.N.
Elected Parent	Jacob Levich
Elected Teacher	Yumeris Morel
Honorary Member	Rudy Greco, Esq.
Honorary Member	Maura Malarcher
Honorary Member	Dr. Hazel DuBois
Honorary Member	Meryl Thompson

### 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
Principal	Monte Joffee
UFT Chapter Chair	Emily Byrum
Non-pedagogical	Pat Poljanec
Cluster 1 (K-3)	John Vanek
Cluster 2 (4-6)	Renay Moran Kurklen
Cluster 3 (7,8)	Sandra Fritz
Cluster 4 (9-10)	Victor Motta
Cluster 4 (11-12)	Thandi Guimaraes
Special Needs	James Lawlor
Pedagogical	(Open)

### 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)	Barbara Mutnick
VP. Cluster 5 (11,12)	Eileen Sanders
Treasurer	Hannah Li
Recording Secretary	Noreen Wortman
Corresponding Secretary	Jim Stonebraker

### UPCOMING DATES

6/20: Final PTA Meeting  
6/26: Graduation  
6/26: Parent Meeting,  
Matrix Geography  
7/9: Summer School Begins  
9/7: First Day of School  
9/13 & 9/14: Rosh Hashanah  
9/20: Curriculum Night  
10/8: Columbus Day  
11/6: Election Day  
11/12: Veterans Day

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

By Rebekah Oakes

Renaissance is part of a consortium of schools that applied to the US Department of Education for the Teacher Incentive Fund grant submitted by the Center for Educational Innovation – Public Education Association (CEI-PEA). We are delighted to announce that the CEI-PEA proposal has been selected for funding, awarding \$10.5 million to be shared by the 10 schools over 5 years. Together, the schools and the Center will launch Partnership for Innovation in Compensation for Charter Schools as a comprehensive program to recruit, retain, develop and reward teachers and school leaders. The four main elements of the plan are to:

1. Provide teachers and school leaders with meaningful financial incentives for achieving student outcome goals. The teachers and school leaders will work together with CEI-PEA to establish the outcome goals based on value-added methods, thereby participating in development of their own growth plans. The model is designed to involve and integrate teachers and school leaders as professionals rather than as workers who must be externally assessed.
2. Provide on-site technical assistance to help teachers and school leaders meet their goals which will include the development of Individual Academic Plans, Classroom Plans and School-wide Plans.
3. Provide educators with a comprehensive peer review program where they can draw upon and share best practices.
4. Provide educators with a robust data system that delivers “real time” data to the school and classroom.

It is our belief that this grant will provide the resources to truly compensate our teachers for the work they are already doing, in making sure we meet our accountability goals. It also will give us the technical tools to meet those goals with real-time data, providing a system that would be far beyond our means to produce by ourselves. Our own Stacey Gauthier was part of the press conference announcing the grant on Wednesday, June 6 inside of the Tweed Court House. She will be working with our teaching faculty and the consortium over the next several months to establish the infrastructure of the compensation system so that it meets the needs of our community.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS - 2007 TEST RESULTS

Renaissance again exceeded its annual goal that 70% of students in grades 3-8 will meet or exceed standards in the ELA and Mathematics examinations. Our scores exceeded the city's average in all grades.

	English Language Arts				Mathematics			
	2007 TRCS	2007 NYC	2006 TRCS	2006 NYC	2007 TRCS	2007 NYC	2006 TRCS	2006 NYC
3rd Grade	88%	56.4%	84%	61.5%	96.0%	82.2%	100%	75.3%
4th Grade	88%	56%	84%	58.9%	96.0%	74.1%	88%	70.9%
5th Grade	64%	56.1%	86%	56.7%	74.0%	71.1%	88%	61.3%
6th Grade	92%	49.7%	83.1%	48.7%	88.0%	63.2%	62.5%	52.7%
7th Grade	68.75%	45.4%	72.7%	44.2%	66.6%	55.5%	68.8%	43.9%
8th Grade	68.6%	41.8%	65.2%	36.8%	66.6%	45.6%	80.4%	38.9%
3rd-8th Grades	76.4%	50.8%	78.5%	50.7%	78.4%	65.1%	78.9%	57%

## RENAISSANCE STUDENTS SPEAK OUT! - END OF YEAR PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITS AND CONFERENCES

By Rebekah Oakes

Last month's newsletter detailed some fabulous arts events: we have seen some wonderful things this past month from our wonderfully talented students and teachers.

- Renaissance students made up a large portion of the cast of City At Peace this year. Their musical drama “Univers-All”, written and performed by a diverse group of teenagers from all five boroughs, was presented to the public on April 15-18. This wonderful production showcased our students to great acclaim, but more importantly, it brought kids together from all over the city to build relationships and bring about change in the city.
- The 9th-10th grade “Underage Cabaret” performed again at Queens Theater in the Park's cabaret theater on April 17 and 18, thanks to a grant from Queens Council on the Arts and DYCD funds from Helen Sears. Teaching Artists Andrew Ronan, Desi Waters and Rich Calvache with teacher Dennis Gereritz helped to create a performance piece based in part on original work written in conjunction with the Young Playwrights, Inc. residency. On Sunday, June 10, selected pieces from the 10th grade Cabaret were taken to Barnes and Noble at Lincoln Center in Manhattan to perform in “Get The Word Out Youth Theatre Festival” for other urban youth, some from as far away as Philadelphia. By all accounts, our kids stole the show! Kudos to all and thanks for representing Renaissance so beautifully!
- Our high-schoolers are performing elsewhere in the city when Martha Bolivar's AP Spanish class will perform “El Burlador de Sevilla” on Saturday, June 16 at 11 a.m. in a special performance at El Repertorio Español. Congratulations!
- Cristine Slingerland's 6th grade classes performed The Epic of Gilgamesh in two variations on June 5 and 6. This musical dramatization was written by the students, both dialogue and music. Some portions of each scene were sung as an opera is performed. The students have been working closely with Everett, Cristine and Mark Johnson to get the music down on paper, and with Rebekah Slotnick and Curtis Anderson on staging and movement. The scenic backdrops were created in Robert's art classes. We were all very proud of the wonderful work presented by 601 and 602.
- Learning 2 Look, the high school art and communications extra-curricular class, and The Parents as Arts Partners Noguchi partnership had its final workshop and exhibit on the evening of June 12 at The Isamu Noguchi Museum. Students and parents' artwork produced throughout the year was exhibited in this beautiful, professional space celebrating our 3rd year of collaboration with the museum.
- Art blossomed all over the school, and the high school Art and Music exhibition was held on June 11. This year black and white photographs, paintings and drawings lined the walls, animation and great jazz issued forth from the gymnasium, while the seventh grade drama classes shared the material written in English and Drama classes as part of the YPI residency in the auditorium. The seventh grade scenes will be performed again on the evening of June 13.
- 1st grade students performed their version of The Little Red Hen for appreciative parents on June 12, and sang “The Farmer in the Dell” (with added original lyrics) and “The Hokie Pokie” (with enthusiastic parent participation!)
- 2nd through 5th graders shared their original songs, written during the residency with TADA! on the morning of June 13. They presented with aplomb and assurance under the guidance of teaching artists Tammy and Lawrence. Great

preparation for the 6th grade opera!

- 8th grade students presented an arts and social studies integrated comparison study of the Harlem Renaissance and the New Orleans Renaissance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on Friday, June 15. The 8th grade band played jazz, art students presented a video, projects lined the auditorium and a video documentary by Ali Rosow and Emily Oliapuram of their experience in New Orleans this spring was shown. Congratulations on a job well done!

The Arts aren't the only vehicle for self expression here at Renaissance. The Third Annual NYC Youth Activist Conference was held again at Renaissance, presented by our own YELL! (Young Eclectic Liberation Leaders) on May 25. This was our biggest turn-out ever: over 120 people with a passion for reform came from all over NYC to network, educate, learn and organize. Workshops with titles like Celebrate People's History, Sticks and Stones, Killer Coke, Media Freaks: Break the Addiction and Poetry as Praxis were run by students for students, representing YELL!, Generation Q, Youth Venture and the Misled Youth Network. Our next generation of activists are sprouting right here at Renaissance!

Also on the 25th (busy day!) the Junior Class presented the annual career day. Organized by students, this forum presented parents and invited guests representing careers in Speech Pathology and Audiology, Computer Programming, Web Design, Mental Health Law and Social Work, Journalism, Finance, Computer Animation, Police Science and Small Business: Publishing. Thanks to everyone who participated!

TREA (Teens for Racial and Ethnic Awakening) had their final open mic on May 31. As always, teens got a forum for self-expression as they shared poetry, song, stories and monologues with each other. The recently produced memory book showed a very successful year of workshops investigating topics such as Graffiti: Is it Art?, How to take Environmental Action, Labeling, Gangs and Violence, and more. We can be proud of raising such committed and thoughtful teens and of giving them the space and the support to express themselves.

## **OTHER NEWS**

The National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on May 24 in a lovely evening ceremony. Maura Malarcher and Pat O'Donohue did the welcoming remarks, and the keynote speaker was Margaret Martinez De-Luca from TRCS Board of Trustees, Bank Street College and Sarah Lawrence College. Congratulations to 12th graders: Vivienne Layne, Christopher Lind, Camille Ricks, Jeremy Reinstein Leanne Sajor and Johanna Villegas; 11th graders: Cesar Borja, Christopher Cabral, Natalie Espinal, Italia Errazuriz, Samuel Gauthier, Alisha Martinez, Nemu Oikawa, Jonathan Rivas, Melanie Romano, Mayra Salazar, Arjun Sharma, Ali Tayyab, Lorena Urena; 10th graders: James Abene, Bryan Arias, Emilio Arias, Peter Canteros, Luvana Chowdhury, Courtney Dickens, Sangay Diki, Kainat Javed, Onix Mejia, Kari Morales, Andrea Rodriguez, Katia Roma, and Mathew Stachnik.

We congratulate our Seniors who will ALL be moving on to colleges in the fall. We have a 100% college acceptance rate this year!

We welcome all of our new parents! We held orientations for our new 5th graders on May 31 and for kindergarten students and parents on June 11. Thanks to Fran, Renay, Jean, John, Sylvie and everyone who helped coordinate these important welcoming events.

On behalf of the Management Team of The Renaissance Charter School we want to send a big THANK YOU for all your work this year to all our parent leaders who are stepping down or moving to new positions. Congratulations to all of our new parent leaders who will be representing parents on the CSG and the PTA in the fall. We look forward to an enjoyable and productive working relationship.

Welcome back Janna Pistiner Ostroff! Janna is back and better than ever—after a year at a bigger Manhattan school, getting experience with a large science department, she says she misses Renaissance. Krystin Pluchino has decided to move to Japan this summer, so we had an opening and are happy to report that Janna will be teaching Chemistry and MS Science. Janna is expecting a baby (congrats!) and will be on maternity leave for a portion of the first semester, but Dick Doherty will be filling in until she returns full time.

Krystin is not the only teacher moving on this summer; Victor Motta is moving to Florida and will be very much missed in the high-school after 7 years of faithful service. We wish them both the best of luck in their new endeavors.

## **TRCS ALUMNI, DANIELLE BERO, WINS PEPPER PRIZE**

*By Adriane Marcellu, (Reprinted from *The Laf*, Friday, May 4, 2007)*

For Danielle Bero '07, a native of Queens, New York, coming to Lafayette (Lafayette College in Easton, PA) was a culture shock. Although she had been informed by the Posse Scholar program that life at Lafayette would be very different from her city environment, it was not until she arrived at Lafayette that a lack of cross-cultural interaction hit her.

Bero said she recognized this divide and quickly began working to build a greater community both on and off campus - efforts that led to her recognition as this year's George Wharton Pepper Prize winner. She said she has tried to make Lafayette a more accepting, open, and well-informed place.

Taking her quest for openness into her own hands - and mouth, for that matter - Bero co-founded Writing Organization Reaching Dynamic Students, better known as W.O.R.D.S., an open microphone forum for student expression. She said the regularly occurring event has drawn increasing interest from students who use the space to recite poetry and speak out about controversial topics.

Bero also took advantage of already established activist groups, becoming a member in the organizations Questioning Established Sexual Taboos and the Multicultural Women's Support Group.

Recognizing a need for the college's resources in the Easton community, Bero began working with the Landis Community Outreach Center to help start programs such as Teens In the Community and Teen Moms, both organizations that cater to the specific needs of teens living in the area.

She said her most rewarding time at Lafayette has been working with TIC. In particular, one of her favorite experiences was when she brought the teens to perform in a talent show in the Farinon Student Center last month. She said the event was memorable not only because she could see how much fun the kids were having, but also because it was a way to introduce them to a positive college atmosphere. "It helps them see [college] can be a reality," she said.

She said she is grateful that Lafayette has provided her with so many opportunities. She said she appreciates Lafayette's small size because it is easier to impact change. "Whatever you want to happen here, the resources are there for you to do it," she said.

Although Bero was initially struck by the lack of diversity and community outreach at Lafayette, in her four years here, she said she has seen change. Bero said she believes just by looking at the Farinon atrium during lunch, she can see

that the college has become more culturally diverse. Now, she said, "people are more willing to engage in dialogue and show up for organized and important events."

Although Bero said Lafayette has come a long way in the time she has been here, she still believes there are many changes that still need to happen. Bero did not take responsibility for the transformation, stating, "I don't think one person can do it, I think a big group needs to make change."

She recommends that underclassmen and future students who want to make change get involved in outreach organizations. She explained one of the problems the college has faced is that the same students are the only ones who come to events.

Bero plans to continue her service by teaching high school English in Indonesia on a Fulbright Scholarship. Later on, she said she hopes to make W.O.R.D.S. an international association.

## PARENT LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

The annual parent leadership elections were held on June 5. The positions and the corresponding representative are listed below. Please contact your representative with any questions or concerns.

### Collaborative School Governance (CSG)

The Collaborative School Governance Committee (CSG) monitors the quality of life and sets instructional policies at the school. Their endeavors culminate in a Charter School Comprehensive Education Plan (CSCEP). The implementation of these policies is delegated to the school's management team.

Cluster 1 (K-3)	Kirsten Westphal	kwest@aaahawk.com	718-429-9889
Cluster 2 (4, 5)	Jacob Levich	jlevich@earthlink.net	718-458-1945
Cluster 3 (6-8)	Suzanne Reinhardt	textilefashion88@yahoo.com	718 898 3063
Cluster 4 (9-12)	Eileen Sanders	berry1@aol.com	917-442-0124
	Mark Satinoff	msat@verizon.net	718-397-1112
Special Needs	Irene Attilio	airene99@aol.com	718-899-6260
Arts, Spanish & Phys Ed.	Dana Cotton	Danacotton@aol.com	---
Parent at Large (Clusters 1-3)	Elyse Lau	Barnasi@aol.com	646-337-1043
Parent at Large (Cluster 4)	Suman Sharma	gita.sum@gmail.com	718-595-2598

### Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

TRCS is strongly committed to parental involvement in all aspects of school governance. The primary goal of PTA is to foster communication and collaboration between the parents and families of our children and the teachers and staff of TRCS. For the 2006-07 school year, the PTA provided funds of over \$15,000 to support school-wide programs.

Co-President, K-6	Lillian Chen	chen.l@dreyfus.com	917-734-4839
Co-President, 7-12	Noreen Wortman	nwortman74@yahoo.com	718-721-2364
Cluster 1 (K-3)	Peggy Heeney	benoit.papineau@videotron.ca	718-360-8706
Cluster 2 (4, 5)	Geraldine Neary	geriqn@aol.com	718-777-7296
Cluster 3 (6-8)	Karen Joseph	jewelsierra@yahoo.com	---
Cluster 4 (9-12)	Mavis Hall	mfmal@aol.com	718-803-1992
Treasurer	Barbara Mutnick	barbaragael@verizon.net	718-397-1112
Corresponding Secretary	Elyse Lau	Barnasi@aol.com	646-337-1043
Recording Secretary	Renee Stonebraker	rstonebraker@earthlink.net	718-406-3005

## SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Various school-wide committees support many of the PTA sponsored programs and events. Please contact the person listed below to join and volunteer for any of these activities. Assistance is always needed and greatly appreciated.

After-school	Celia Irvine	trcsafterschool@gmail.com	347-885-5584
Arts	Rebekah Oakes	rmoakes@juno.com	718-803-0060, x116
Communication	Jim Stonebraker	james.stonebraker@tiffany.com	212-230-6923
Fund-raising			
PTA Pasta Night	<b>OPEN</b>		
PTA Luau	Geraldine Neary	geriqn@aol.com	718-777-7296
Scholastic Book Fair	Kirsten Westphal	kwest@aaahawk.com	718-429-9889
	Hilary Rogan	hrogan2005@yahoo.com	718-937-1858
Spring Flea Market	Fran Smith	bermuda1234@hotmail.com	718-803-0060, x106
Fall & Spring Picture Days	Hilary Rogan	hrogan2005@yahoo.com	718-937-1858
KidArt Cards	Noreen Wortman	nwortman74@yahoo.com	718-721-2364
Filipino Festival	Winnie Reyes	rouiereyes@yahoo.com	718-565-9627
Avon	<b>OPEN</b>		
Uncle Jerry T-Shirts	Fran Smith	bermuda1234@hotmail.com	718-803-0060, x106
Miss Chocolate	<b>OPEN</b>		
Pizzeria Uno	<b>OPEN</b>		
Talent Show	Rebekah Oakes	rmoakes@juno.com	718-803-0060, x116
Hospitality/Orientation			
Staff Appreciation Lunch	<b>OPEN</b>		
Welcome Breakfast	Lillian Chen	chen.l@dreyfus.com	917-734-4839
	Noreen Wortman	nwortman74@yahoo.com	718-721-2364
Volunteers for School Events	<b>OPEN</b>		
Membership	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nutrition	<b>OPEN</b>		