



The Renaissance School Newsletter November 2009

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Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

A letter from the Director

We have now completed almost two full months of school. The children are in an established rhythm in their classrooms. They are familiar with their new teacher and classmates. Our returning friends are comfortable in the familiar surroundings of the school, and our new Kindergarten children have made themselves at home. It has been wonderful being all together again at Renaissance. Our school community is made strong by maintaining and building healthy bonds between the

children, parents, teachers and administrators. We all have one common goal and that is to provide a safe, nurturing, and happy environment where the children's education can flourish. The teachers, parents and administrators in our community support this goal by communicating openly, being honest, being compassionate, and continuing to preserve the philosophy and mission that is The Renaissance School. It is a gift to be surrounded by so

much natural beauty at the farm, and to be in a place where everyone is accepted without judgment. As the days begin to get shorter and the cold weather arrives, lets all take a moment to reflect on a warm, sunny moment and carry that with us into the winter months. There is so much to look forward to, so much to learn and so much to be thankful for. We wish everyone a happy, and fun filled fall season!

~Leah

Dates to Remember:

- NOVEMBER 4 **No School (K-3)**
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
FLYNN THEATER TRIP (4-7)
- NOVEMBER 5 **HALF DAY**
(ALL GRADES)
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT NOON
- NOVEMBER 6
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
No School (GRADES 4-7 ONLY)
KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION
MEETING 10-11:30
7TH/8TH GRADE INFORMATION
MEETING 2:00-3:00
- NOVEMBER 20
GIVING DAY 12:30-3:00
- NOVEMBER 25-27 **No School**
THANKSGIVING RECESS
- DECEMBER 7 ST. NICHOLAS DAY
- DECEMBER 15
REHEARSAL 8:30-11:00
PERFORMANCE 6:30-8:00
- DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 1
No School
HOLIDAY BREAK

Who's Who at The Renaissance School

Classroom Teachers:

Kindergarten: Danielle Harris

First Grade: Jocelyn Rogers

First/Second Grades: Stephanie Decarreau

Third Grade: Rachel Ring and Kristy Stone

Fourth/Fifth Grades: Heather Dudley

Sixth/Seventh Grades: Eve Dubois

Specials Teachers:

French: Caroline Unger

Spanish: Ana Sloan

Music (K): Ellie Tetrick

Music (1-7): Kelly Becker

Art: Laura Poirier

Enrichment: Annette Fitzpatrick

School Director:

Leah Mulvey

Support:

Cameron Edson

Josh Rooney

Irena Melcumov



A Message from the Main Office

We are so happy to welcome all of the children and parents to a new year at The Heartworks and Renaissance Schools! Each School Director has reported a wonderful beginning to the school year. The teachers and children have gotten into a smooth rhythm and each classroom has a real sense of community.

We are in the busy season of both re-enrollment and tours for the upcoming school year. Please send your re-enrollment information to the Main Office by Friday, November 13th. It is also important to note that Private School Aid Service will not be processing tuition assistance applications until after February 1st. Once applications are processed, we will be able to send a confirmation of tuition assistance for the 2010 school year. Everyone on a reduced tuition at Renaissance needs to file with PSAS each year.

We will hold two information meetings in November. The first is for incoming Kindergarten children which is Friday November 6th at 10am. Later that afternoon at 2pm,

we will meet with interested parents of seventh and eighth grade students. Please call or see Kelly in the Main Office if you plan to attend either meeting.

As a reminder, if you are paying your tuition monthly, payments are due on the first of each month. We do not send a monthly invoice. If your payment has not been received before the 10th day of the month, we will add a \$25 late fee to your invoice and mail you a late notice. Many families write out checks that are post dated for each month so they don't have to worry about sending their monthly payments. If you would like to do this, please call the Main Office to make arrangements. When you send your payments, please write your child's name in the memo line of your check. We have many families with the same last names and this will help to ensure the payment is being credited to the right child.

If you have any questions about re-enrollment or your tuition, please call Kelly Libby in the Main Office.

Winter Performance

We need some volunteers for the Winter Performance on Dec. 15:

- Piano Accompanist for 1 to 2 songs
- Bass Player (standing bass preferred)
- Classroom Costume Coordinator. One person from each room to help students find one simple costume piece to either purchase, collect or make. Please sign up in the main hallway if you're interested.
- On the night of the show, we need a few volunteers to help children put their costumes on.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Summer Camp. It was a rich and exciting summer!

"As we open our hearts to children we embrace them with love, acceptance and without judgment"

~Louise H. Piché

Early Care

Please remember that the classrooms open each morning at 8:20. Before that time, teachers are in their rooms to prepare for their day. If you arrive before 8:20, you are welcome to go to your child's classroom to put their things away and are then have your child join Early Care for a charge of \$8/day. Please see the sign at the bottom of the stairs to see which classroom Early Care is taking place in. If you plan to stay with your child, you are welcome to use the library space.

Wellness Walks

The wellness walks have been a success for everyone. Some of the children enjoy running, while others enjoy a gentle stroll. We have been walking to the welcome center and back for almost two months. Some of the teachers have reported that the children are able to focus better on their school work on the days that we have the walks. It has been a good way for everyone to get fresh air, exercise and a nice way for the

whole school to participate in an activity that takes advantage of our lovely surroundings! We will continue to walk through the month of November. In December we will be replacing our walk with a series of morning stretching or perhaps a little bit of dancing. When the weather is warm again in the spring we will continue having our wellness walks with a new route.

“Children’s games are hardly games. Children are never more serious than when they play”

~Montaigne



The Full Moon Campfire and Potluck Dinner

On Monday October 5th The Renaissance Parent Group organized and held the Full Moon Campfire and Potluck Dinner. It took place in the evening at the fire pit on the recess hill. The parent group did a wonderful job planning such a fun event for the children and families. The evening started out with a beautiful rainbow in the sky above the farm barn. Many families attended and brought with them some delicious food to share

with everyone. The children enjoyed learning about owls from the OFES program, roasting marshmallows, running in the field with glow sticks, and singing campfire songs with Ellie Tetric and Kelly Becker, our music teachers. Chili was provided by Miguel’s courtesy of the Henzel family. Thanks to everyone, especially Christie Crowe who made this event such a great success.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled all day on Wednesday, November 4th and starting at noon on Thursday, November 5th at the Farm. There will be no classes at the Commons on these days. Please sign up for a conference time on your child’s classroom parent board. Please remember there is no school on Wednesday, November 4th

and a half day ending at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 5th. We appreciate everyone being on time to the conferences so everyone stays on schedule, thank you. While we love having the children at school, please make other arrangements for them during your conference time. A conference will not be held

with a child present in the room.

Heather and Eve’s classes will have an alternate schedule that week:

Wed. Nov 4: Full day of school with Flynn Trip
Thur. Nov 5: 1/2 day of school with Conferences



The Hike for Hunger

On Tuesday, October 6th, our whole school participated in The Hike for Hunger to raise money for the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. We all hiked up Mt. Philo in Charlotte on a beautiful and sunny fall day. The children, parents and teachers enjoyed a snack together at the

top of the mountain and the gorgeous view! We all joined together for a group photo and listened to several poetry selections from the third grade children. The children enjoyed hiking up and down and having time to talk with their friends. We thank all of the parents and teachers for helping to

make this event safe for everyone. We raised \$2,551.45 dollars from the pledges the children made. The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger is very thankful for our donation.



Parent Communication

Every classroom has a parent communication clipboard or notebook for quick notes to the teacher in the morning. We ask that morning drop off and afternoon pick up communication be brief as the teacher is focused on greeting and dismissing every child in the

class, and watching that they arrive and leave safely. If you need to have a longer conversation with your child's teacher please schedule a time to meet during the school day, thank you.



Hot Lunch

The hot lunch program needs parent volunteers to help serve lunch. If you are interested please sign your name on the hot lunch board at the bottom of the stairs.



Green Mountain Power Plant

~Written by Anna Senft-Miller

On October 15th, Eve's class went to the Green Mountain Power Plant (GMPP). Experienced workers started building the power plant in 1915; it was finished two years later in 1917 when they also started producing electricity. At the top of a waterfall that is 60 feet high, there are three big rubber bags (5 feet high) that hold back some of the water. If one bag breaks or fails, it could lead to a flood. These bags were placed there ten years ago. They are made out of rubber so that when the dam above the waterfall freezes where the bags are, they won't stick to the ice.

Before this power plant was built, the closest one was in Vergennes. At this time, Burlington had trolley cars, so every time a trolley car that ran on electricity would start up, all the lights would dim. They dimmed because the further away the power plant was, the less electricity you would get. In 1927 there was a big flood because the dam overflowed; the flood took out almost all of the bridges on the Winooski River. Since the flood happened during the winter, everything was ice, and the water spread quickly because

the soil was frozen and there were no trees to soak up the water.

On the inside of the building, there are three big tubes; when the water drops from the dam above the waterfall, it spins a wheel that has magnets on it. Each magnet weighs 350 pounds, and there are 24 magnets. The force from the water makes the magnets spin, and the magnets make the electrons in a cable move back and forth, which creates electricity.

The power that this company makes is used to run their building. The electricity they create comes out of the building at 2,400 volts and then goes into a converter that increases the amount of volts to 34,500 volts. They produce 192 megawatts a day, which gives electricity to about 8,000 homes. Their building is made out of concrete because they wanted something that could withstand major floods. To control the building and tools, they use a regular sized computer; the biggest computer is in Burlington; it controls all the circuits across Vermont. They are on call 24 hours a day, so if something goes wrong, they can come over.

If there is an emergency, the workers can be reached by radio, pager, cell phone and home phone.

In an area where there are a lot of trees that could fall and snap the electric cables, they use wires that are underground sometimes. They also use underground wires because it gives you more space, and when you are looking around, you don't want to look at them all the time. They don't always use them because they cost seven times as much as wires that are above ground.

The river is owned by Vermont, and the state of Vermont and the federal government license the workers; every 30 years they get a new license. The GMPP is not a very big company, but they work together with other companies to create enough electricity for Vermont. Hydroelectric power is one of the most sustainable types of electricity, and it doesn't affect the planet as much as other types of electricity.

Note: There are two types of electricity: the type that comes from a battery (direct) and the type that you use in your house (alternating).



Cold and Flu Season

Here is a list of guidelines that we received from a Doctor's office in an effort to help us through the cold and flu season. In the event your child should experience any illness, please consult your pediatrician for care.

SYMPTOM	COLD	FLU
FEVER	Fever is rare with a cold. If there is a fever, it would be mild.	Fever is usually present with the flu. A temperature of 100 F or higher for 3 to 4 days is associated with the flu.
ACHES	Mild body aches and pains can be present with a cold.	Severe body aches and pains are common with the flu.
CHILLS	Chills are uncommon with a cold.	Chills are common with the flu.
EXTREME EXHAUSTION	Extreme exhaustion is very uncommon with a cold.	Extreme exhaustion is common with the flu, especially at the beginning of the illness.
SUDDEN SYMPTOMS	Cold symptoms develop gradually over a few days.	The flu has a rapid onset of 3-6 hours. The flu hits hard and fast with fever, aches and pains.
COUGHING	A hacking, productive cough is associated with a cold.	A dry, non-productive cough is associated with the flu.
SNEEZING	Sneezing is common with a cold.	Sneezing is uncommon with the flu.
STUFFY NOSE	A stuffy nose is common with a cold and typically resolves in a week.	A stuffy nose is uncommon with the flu.
SORE THROAT	A sore throat is very common with a cold.	A sore throat is uncommon with the flu.
CHEST DISCOMFORT	Chest discomfort is mild to moderate with a cold.	Chest discomfort is often severe with the flu.
HEADACHE	A headache is uncommon with a cold.	A headache is very common with the flu.
VOMITING AND DIARRHEA	Vomiting and diarrhea are uncommon with a cold.	Vomiting and diarrhea are common with the H1N1 flu.
PREVENTION	Wash your hands often. Avoid close contact with anyone with a cold.	Get vaccinated with the seasonal flu and the H1N1 vaccines. Wash your hands often. Avoid contact with anyone with the flu.