

# RAPP



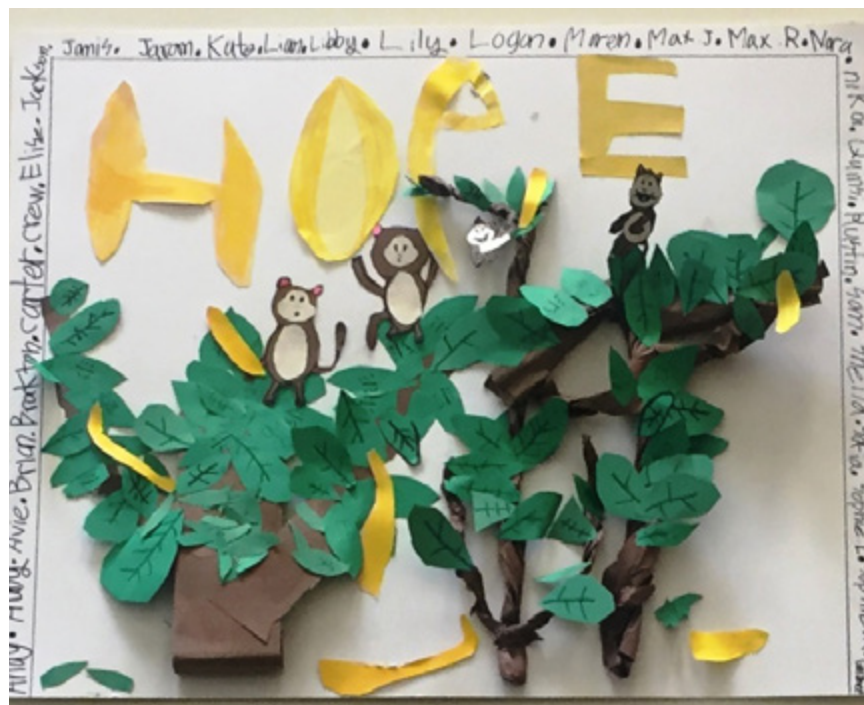
February 2017

## Important Dates

2/3	FEC Meeting 8am
2/3	MS Field Trip - Capitol/U of U
2/8	NJHS Meeting 3:15-4pm
2/10	MS Pajama Party 12:30-3:30pm
2/13-3/3	SAGE Testing
2/13-17	Book Fair
2/13-17	4th Grade Aquarium Week
2/15	Board Meeting 7pm
2/16	SEP's Conference (early out 12:15pm)
2/16	Chick-Fil-A Night
2/17	SEP's (appointment only)
2/20	President's Day (NO SCHOOL)
2/21-24	Box Tops Contest
2/23	Spelling Bee 7pm
2/27-3/3	Teacher Appreciation Week

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The Renaissance Academy Printing Press



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## New Student Enrollment

New student enrollment for the 2017-18 school year is now open on our school website at <https://renacademy.org/schedules-enrollment>. Please remind any friends who may be considering Renaissance Academy to enter their students in the lottery registration system at this time. The lottery is set to be run in early March.

## Returning Student Re-enrollment

Returning student re-enrollment for the 2017-18 school year is now open online at <https://renacademy.org/schedules-enrollment>. Please be aware you will need to create a new user profile as we start fresh every year. Please re-enroll your students as soon as possible.

We ask that all parents please respond to indicate your plans for your student/s for 2017-18.

## Student Pickup

Just a reminder that school ends at 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 12:15 pm on Friday. All students are expected to be collected within 15-minutes of school ending unless participating in a scheduled after-school program. Please ensure your student/s are picked up promptly after school. We have noticed several students who are not registered/participating in an after-school program but are remaining unsupervised at school waiting to be picked up for significant periods of time after the 3:00 pm bell has rung.

For your information, we offer after-school club/care at Renaissance for all age groups if you are unable to collect your student promptly by 3:15 pm M-Th. or 12:30 pm on Friday. After-school club runs from 3:00-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 12:15-6:00 pm on Friday. The cost is \$15 per student Monday-Thursday and \$25 on Friday. This can be paid in the office or online at: <https://renacademy.org/afterschool-clubs>. Special payment arrangements can also be made if your student only needs a short time-period of care by emailing [activities@renacademy.org](mailto:activities@renacademy.org). Please email [activities@renacademy.org](mailto:activities@renacademy.org) 24 hours in advance if you have a new student who will be attending.

\*Please note, beginning in February (i.e., next week), students who are not enrolled and participating in an after-school program but remain at school after 3:15 pm M.-Th. or 12:30 pm on Friday will be directed to attend after-school club. Parents/guardians will be contacted regarding their students attendance and charged for the attendance. We understand that occasionally things happen (especially in this weather!) and emergency situations come up where you may be unavoidably late to collect your student/s, if this is the case please contact the office as soon as possible to let us know and we will work with you in this situation. Thank you for your support and dedication to your students.

Please coordinate with your students and carpools **before school** as to where and when you will be meeting for after-school pickup. The overhead speaker is only to be used in case of an emergency. For your information, students are not permitted to use the office phone until 3:15 pm after school.



# Emergency Procedures

## **ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE WHEN ON CAMPUS**

Parents/guardians and other school volunteers and visitors, please remember you are required to sign in at the office and wear a 'volunteer/visitor' badge when you are on school premises. This requirement is for your own safety as well as the safety of our students. We need to know who is on campus at all times. In case of emergency, if you have not signed in at the school office as required, we do not know you are in the building and will not be looking to account for your whereabouts and safety (i.e., in case of fire or lock down). Please remember, all volunteers must also have a current background check to volunteer at school. Please contact Emily Simons at [esimons@renacademy.org](mailto:esimons@renacademy.org) if you would like to confirm if your background check is current.

## Parking

### **Please do not park your cars in the parking lots of local businesses surrounding our school.**

Business owners have repeatedly asked us as a school community not to park in their parking lots. We as an administration, also request that you respect our neighbors and do not park in the parking lots other than our own school lot. Please be advised, if you continue to park in any of the surrounding parking lots not belonging to Renaissance, you risk receiving a pricey parking ticket if reported to police by the local business owner.

## Parent Messages to Students

Just a reminder that our school and all classrooms are very busy places of learning. Please plan and coordinate with your students as much as possible before school. We understand things come up and often it is unavoidable, however please reflect on the level of importance of any message you ask the office staff to pass along to your student during the school day. Any message sent to a student during the school day often interrupts not only your student, but also their teacher and the whole class instruction. Thank you for your attention and support.

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## Middle School Parent/Student Reminder

### Middle School Lunch

Parents, please remind your students they are not permitted to order food to be delivered to them at school for lunch. Students are expected to bring a home lunch or purchase lunch in the cafeteria. If they forget lunch they are welcome to come to the office between classes and call their parent/guardian to bring them lunch. We have had incidents this week where students thought they might order pizza to be delivered to the school during class time. This is inappropriate behavior and interrupts and distracts from their learning. All MS students are now aware that they will receive a detention if they choose to order and have food delivered to the school for lunch.

### Student Cell Phones

Our MS students have also been reminded that their cell phones should remain in their backpacks and not be visible or used at school/class between 8 am and 3 pm. If a student chooses to have their phone out at an inappropriate time, they have been warned a teacher may take their phone for the remainder of the day and return it to them after 3 pm. MS students will also receive a detention as a consequence for inappropriate cell phone use when they pick up their phone after school. Please encourage your students to keep their phones in their backpacks while at school. Thank you for your support.



## Winter Reminder

We still have some students coming to school without appropriate attire. Please remember to send your student/s to school in appropriate winter clothing (coats, gloves, hats, snow boots etc.) so that they are prepared to go outside for recess when the weather permits. Our students spend up to an hour outside on any given day, let's make sure they stay warm and dry! Please also remember to label ALL clothing items.

\*Please note - Snow boots are permitted at school during the winter months. They do not need to be dress code colors (although this is always appreciated). If your student wears snow boots to school please also send PE shoes to school on days when they have PE class.

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## Mathnasium Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to Parker Salazar (5th) and Aaliyah Nelson (6th) our 2016-17 Mathnasium scholarship recipients. As our scholarship recipients, Aaliyah and Parker will receive unlimited one-on-one Math tutoring support at Mathnasium, Highland for a period of 6-months (valued at \$249/month).

Aaliyah and Parker were two of many students recommended to Administration as a worthy recipient of this generous scholarship offer from Mathnasium. Students were nominated by their teachers as students who could benefit from extra math support outside of school, were dedicated and attentive learners, and who their teachers believed would take advantage of and maximize this opportunity for Math support or extension at Mathnasium if given the opportunity. Once all nominations were put forward, Aaliyah and Parker were selected from the pool of students as our scholarship recipients this year. Congratulations Aaliyah and Parker!

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## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be held February 13-17. Monday-Wednesday the times will be 7:45-4pm, Thursday will be 7:45-6pm and Friday will be 7:45-1pm.

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## Spelling Bee

The Renaissance Spelling Bee will be held Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm. Class and Grade level Spelling Bees will be scheduled by your child's teacher and held sometime in January. The Spelling Bee lists have been distributed to the teachers and your student should be bringing home a list of Spelling Bee words to study.



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## Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00pm**. The agenda will be posted prior to the meeting online at <https://renacademy.org/board-meetings>.

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## Join the Board of Directors

If you are interested in joining the Renaissance Academy Board of Directors, please send a letter of intent to [board@renacademy.org](mailto:board@renacademy.org).





## After-School Basketball - Session 2

If you are thinking about registering your student/s for our second session of basketball camp this semester, don't forget to get in early! Our camps with Coach Story are extremely popular and fill up quickly!

Session II: Elementary Grades 2nd-5th  
Tuesdays 3:00- 4:15 pm; Fridays 1:00-2:15 pm  
Starts Feb. 3rd-28th (Total of 8 skills days)  
\$43

Session II: Middle School Grades 6th-9th  
Mondays:3:00-4:15 pm; Fridays: 2:15-3:30 pm  
Starts Feb. 3rd-27th (Total of 8 skills days)  
\$43

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## Guitar Lessons

Beginner guitar lessons are now available at RA every Wednesday from 3:15-4:15 pm. Students age 8+ or 6-7 (if accompanied by an adult or sibling) are welcome to register to learn to play the guitar! Register your student for guitar lessons in the office or online at: <https://renacademy.org/afterschool-clubs>

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## After-School Club - payments

Many of our clubs charge on a semester basis. If you have students currently participating in any of our after-school programs and clubs, please remember to pay your dues in the office or online at <https://renacademy.org/afterschool-clubs>

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## Shop Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Renaissance Academy whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Click this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3365730>.

## 6th-9th Grade Pajama Party!

6th-9th grade Pajama Party  
When: Friday 10th February  
Where: Renaissance Gym  
Time: 12:30-2:30 pm  
Activity: Students will be watching 'The Princess Bride' (rated PG, permission slip required from parents)  
Cost: \$3 (Snacks will be provided)  
Attire: Don't forget to wear your most comfy pajamas and bring pillows and blankets

\*Please note - Students will require a signed parental consent form to participate in all MS student government activities. Please contact Julie Walker at [jwalker@renacademy.org](mailto:jwalker@renacademy.org) for more information.

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## Arbor Day Poster Contest

Spring is around the corner and the 2017 Utah Arbor Day Poster Contest is due March 17th to Mrs. Trotter. The theme is Trees are Terrific Storytellers of the Past! The following URL contains more information on the contest:

<http://ffsl.utah.gov/index.php/forestry/urban-and-community-forestry/arbor-day-poster-contest>

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## RA Sweatshirts

If you would like to purchase a Renaissance Academy sweatshirt, please see Emily Simons in the front office or email her at [esimons@renacademy.org](mailto:esimons@renacademy.org). All sweatshirts are \$25. They come in navy blue or red and can be zip-up or pullover style. They are available in youth and adult sizes.



# Phoenix 200 Club

Congratulations to our latest group of Phoenix 200 Club winners! These students get to go see the new Batman Lego Movie!

Sara Khan (K)  
Klein Lippard (1st)  
Ruth Tovar (1st)  
Lucy Kocherhans (1st)  
Tyren Foster (1st)  
Kashlee Poyfair (1st)  
Boston Miller (1st)  
Michael Gagne (1st)  
London Turley (2nd)  
TJ Chisholm (2nd)  
Zaya Johnson (2nd)  
Gabriel Jones (2nd)  
Kate Hradling (2nd)  
Marina Allen (3rd)  
Dane Barlow (3rd)  
Tayden Dyches (3rd)  
Gracie Farabee (3rd)  
Brenner Turley (3rd)  
Lyndsie Broderick (3rd)  
Luke Jackman (4th)  
Izzy Milne (4th)  
Ian Wilson (4th)  
Ryker Bement (4th)

Brahm Bina (4th)  
Italia Barlow (4th)  
Joshua Guymon (5th)  
Jonah Rodriguez (5th)  
Cayaen Smith (5th)  
Errol Thompson (5th)  
Ryan Porter (8th)  
Nathan Brand (8th)  
Greg Dobson (8th)  
Ethan Freestone (8th)



The Phoenix 200 Club is our school wide positive behavior program whereby teachers look to present tickets to students demonstrating good behavior, going above and beyond, and following our school expectations of Be Successful, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Honest, Be Kind & Be Safe.

Once a teacher gives a good behavior ticket to a student, the student then brings the ticket into the office. They get to sign their name in the “Celebrity Book” and then the pick a random number out of a box. Whatever number they get, they write their name on the Phoenix 200 Club board on the corresponding number. Once there is a row of at least ten students, those specific students are the winners of the “Mystery Motivator” for that round. The “Mystery Motivator” could be things such as a field trip, a gift card, a special lunch, etc. Once we get a winning group, we erase the board and start again allowing all students the opportunity to continue to receive good behavior tickets and the chance to be winners of the mystery motivator.



# FEC Announcements



## FEC Presidency

**ALYSON HARPER** *President*  
alysue23@gmail.com

**MARY MECHAM** *Vice President*  
mmecham@gmail.com

**MANDI LEI** *VP Classroom Coordinator*  
mandijensen@yahoo.com

**AMBER GUYMON** *Secretary*  
acguymon@gmail.com

**KATIE BRODERICK** *Treasurer*  
katiebroderick851@gmail.com

**CANDACE LIERD** *VP of Fundraising*  
candace1112@gmail.com

## FEC Meeting

The FEC meets on the first Friday of each month at 8:00 am in the teacher lounge at the school. Every parent at Renaissance Academy is a member of the FEC and we would love to have your input, your ideas and your help. Feel free to join our meetings any time.

The next meeting will be held on **Friday, February 3rd at 8:00am.**

Get involved by joining our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renaissancefec/>

Have a favorite teacher you would like to nominate? Email submissions to [rahamp-tonspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:rahamp-tonspotlight@gmail.com)

## Teacher Spotlight

Sara Gardner is our Hampton Teacher Spotlight Staycation winner for December. She wins a free night stay at the Hampton Inn. Thank you Hampton Inn at Thanksgiving Point!

Mrs. Gardner is a Second Grade teacher for Chinese Immersion students. Many parents were excited to share her homework policy she has in place this year. She decreased the day to day assignments and instead has offered an optional Einstein Club for kids who would like participate. One parent said, "I love seeing [my sons'] excitement to work on these projects that give real meaning and help him learn to develop a thirst for knowledge; rather than build a resentment toward homework and school."



Other parents were impressed by Mrs. Gardner's involvement in their student's after school activities. She often is supporting her student's talents at dance and sporting events.

Finally one parent shared, "Over the years I've had wonderful experiences with teachers but Mrs. Gardner is one of the exceptional few who is amazing at her job. My daughter loves going to school every day and more importantly she loves learning thanks to the enthusiasm of Mrs. Gardner."

Here's what Mrs. Gardner has to say about teaching, "I've wanted to be a teacher since Second Grade. I idolized my teacher, Mrs. Wilson and wanted to be just like her! I especially loved when she gathered us around her piano to sing everyday, which I now do with my students. I love teaching because I get to build relationships with amazing kids every year! I love hearing their stories and jokes and what's going on in their brain. I love their ideas and creativity, their excitement about the little things, and how quick they are to forgive. I also love supporting them outside of school and watching their talents flourish. Kids are amazing and I'm lucky I get to hang with them all day!"



# RA HAPPENINGS



## Food Donation Drive

Thank you to all the Renaissance families who contributed to our donation drive. In total we collected 2,893 lbs of non-perishable goods that have been donated to the Utah Food Bank. Congratulations to our second grade students for winning our grade level competition and donating 642 lbs!

1st place - 2nd grade with 642 lbs

2nd place - 1st grade with 431 lbs

3rd place - 6th grade with 428 lbs

4th place - 4th grade with 399 lbs

## LAS POSADAS

Mariachi Singer Jorge Luis Galez performed and got all the parents and students on their feet and dancing! The folklore youth dance group “Los Colores” wowed the audience with their colorful costumes and amazing dance routines! At “Las Posadas” parents and students enjoyed an authentic Taco stand, piñatas and educational activities for all.





## HOPE Week

We had an amazing HOPE week thanks to our counselor, Mrs. Naumann and our HOPE Squad! HOPE Week is a suicide prevention program for Middle School



Each day had a theme and a fun dress code, such as crazy hair day! There were lunchtime activities that included writing compliment cards to fellow students as well as teachers and coloring pictures that have to do with hope.

The HOPE Squad went into each classroom kindergarten through 5th grade to teach lessons about being kind. Each student in the school then wrote an act of kindness that they would do on a little paper heart.

Each classroom had the chance to enter into a poster contest! The theme was "kindness." There was a winning poster for each grade. The class that won the contest were able to get free dress!



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## 3rd Grade



### **Mrs. Powell**

Mrs. Abbie Powell is one of our 3rd grade teachers. She is from Wilsonville, Oregon and she is a twin! She is married with two sons. Her family has lived in Utah, South Carolina and Texas.

Her favorite thing about Renaissance Academy is how involved the parents are. She thinks this school is a great family environment!

Mrs. Powell said, "I love teaching because I like problem-solving and finding ways to help a child who is struggling to understand a concept."



### **Mrs. Jones**

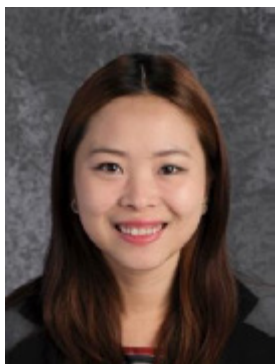
Mrs. Kate Jones is one of our 3rd grade teachers. She was born in Utah but has spent most of her life in Arizona. She has been married for four years. She and her husband have lived in Utah for a little

over two years. They have a cat named Jazzy who has lived with them for one year.

Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the excitement that kids have when the light bulb goes on in a subject that they have been struggling in. Her favorite part of Renaissance Academy is all of the wonderful students and parents she has met.







### **Miss Wu**

Miss Wendy Wu is our 3rd grade Chinese DLI teacher. She is from mainland China, a city called Harbin, which is located in the very northeastern part of China. Ms. Wu loves so many things, such as traveling to new places, hav-

ing yummy food with friends, reading books and playing with her cute puppy at home. Ms. Wu is the only child of her parents and she has the majority of her family in China.

Ms. Wu loves teaching in Renaissance Academy because she loves the students and families here so much. Every time when her students talk with her in Chinese, she feels so proud!



### **Miss Le**

Miss Weixin Le is our 3rd grade Chinese DLI partner teacher. She was born and raised here in Utah, though both of her parents are Chinese so she grew up in her own little immersion program. She's a huge outdoor

junkie, she loves extreme sports and extreme adventures. She loves competitive sports; particularly volleyball, all kinds of boarding, singing along to her guitar, art, dance, yoga, and animals of all shapes and sizes. Especially dogs. She is a sucker for dogs and her one super power is that she can

spot/hear/find any dog within earshot of her. She also absolutely loves being in the classroom and teaching kids, and is incredibly passionate about the many different ways we learn and grow, and it brings her so much joy to see it happen; both within herself and in her students. Her favorite thing about Renaissance Academy is easily the people she interacts with. She LOVES her students, their parents, and her fellow teachers. Coming from a background of coaching and training teachers, she feels justified in saying there are some amazing and incredibly dedicated educators within these walls, and she admires them endlessly. She considers it a blessing to be working alongside them, and alongside each of you.

### **Mrs. Covey**

Mrs. Melissa Covey is our 3rd grade aide. She was raised in Fairfield Ohio! She grew up in a bilingual home - English\ASL. Having a deaf parent at a young age and being the "family interpreter" taught her the value of love and patience! She attended BYU where she met her husband of 18 years. We have two boys, Kegan and Emerson, who both attend Renaissance Academy! She has been a part of this school for six years, the last two being a sub to our amazing aides K-9. She became a permanent 3rd grade aide this year and loves it!

Her passion is her sweet family and their 2 year old labradoodle named Gus! She loves playing board games, being outside, fishing, yard work, or playing with the family! You will often find her hanging out waiting for one of the boys to be done with some of our amazing school programs like the voyager program, or attending one of our amazing basketball games!



## 4th Grade

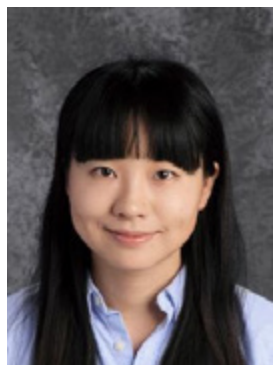


### **Mrs. Wyatt**

Mrs. Veraunica Wyatt is our 4th grade Chinese DLI partner teacher. She is from Orem, Utah. She is left handed and grew up an only girl with five brothers. Her family lives in Utah. Three of her brothers are married and she has three nieces and nephews with two on the

way. They also have five dogs!!!

When asked what she loves about Renaissance Academy she said, "I love the kids of Renaissance Academy. They are kind, loving, and love to learn! My favorite thing about teaching is seeing a kid understand something that had been hard for them before." Mrs. Wyatt loves teaching fourth grade! She believes that school should be a place where students can come to learn, grow, make friends, laugh, and have tons of fun!



### **Miss Zhou**

Miss Lisha Zhou is our 4th grade Chinese DLI teacher. She is from China and is the only child in her family. She came to the U.S. three years ago to further her education. After gaining her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UT Austin, she came to teach at

Renaissance Academy. She really enjoys teaching here! She said, "it's so rewarding to see kids acquire a science term that is difficult even for native Chinese speakers, read Chinese stories aloud without pinyin, express their opinions concisely, share their interesting experiences, and write beautiful Chinese characters. Their progression also motivates me to put more effort in teaching." During her spare time, she loves hiking. She plans to visit all national parks in Utah this year!







### **Mrs. Hanks**

Mrs. Jennifer Hanks is one of our 4th grade teachers. She is from Fort Collins, Colorado. This is her third year teaching at Renaissance. She and her husband, Justin, have a black kitten named Hiccup. They love to hike, camp and be

outdoors. She loves traveling, reading and watching movies. Because Mrs. Hanks loves movies, her classroom theme is all about movies. On her front

wall in her classroom there is a saying from the Lego Movie "Everything is awesome when you are part of team". She likes to think of the students and she are part of a team. They need to work together to learn and grow. They are a team!

Mrs. Hanks said her favorite thing about teaching is, "to hear a student say 'oh...I get it now!'" The moment when everything clicks and they understand what I am trying to teach. It is always a great feeling to know they are learning and growing."



### **Miss Harman**

Miss Kellie Harman is one of our 4th grade teachers. She is from Melbourne, Australia and is enjoying life in another new country. She has previously lived in the United Arab Emirates for several years, teaching at the Aus-

tralian International School, and has also lived in New Zealand as a missionary. Miss Harman enjoys traveling and exploring new places which is made

easier by living in different countries around the world. In addition to teaching, Miss Harman has worked in educational publishing in Australia for three years.

After spending a few years out of the classroom, Miss Harman returned to teaching because she loves seeing students discover new skills and abilities and grow in confidence with their own learning. She enjoys the different personality that each student brings to the classroom and the new ideas that we can learn from each other.



### **Mrs. Gilbert**

Mrs. Melonie Gilbert is our 4th grade aide. She grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada and lives in Highland, Utah. She enjoys playing sports, especially volleyball and softball. She attend Brigham Young University and earned a bachelor's

degree in Social Work. She served a mission for

the LDS church in Costa Rica and loved every minute of it. She was in a beautiful county with beautiful people speaking a beautiful language. She is married and has 5 kids, 3 girls and 2 boys. I have one child who is married, one who is attending BYU, one serving a mission in Argentina, and two at home still. We call it our Disneyland on water. I love Renaissance Academy because of Wonder Days. It's a great time to learn about things getting hands on experience.



# ***SPACE GUARD'S FARPOINT CADETS***

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The USS Voyager is Space Guard's new flagship and is **ready to launch!** The ship is docked at Renaissance Starbase awaiting its new crew.

## **Space Guard Needs You!**

Join Space Guard and blast off on the USS Voyager for a mission of exploration.

*Grades:* 3-9

*Cost:* FREE!

*Optional club t-shirts:* \$15

*Start Date:* January 4th

## ***JOIN NOW!***

Space Guard's Farpoint Cadet Club meets six times during the school year with Mr. Williamson and the staff of the new USS Voyager. Our six meetings are outlined below:

- Two 90 minute pre-mission briefings held before each simulator mission.
- Two 2.5 hour long missions aboard the USS Voyager starship simulator.
- Two 90 minute post-mission briefings held after your missions.

You'll be assigned to a squadron of ten students of similar age. Our meetings and starship missions are held after school on Mondays through Fridays and early Saturday mornings. We also offer free programming classes. We have awesome volunteers.

To learn more about this club and to join, go to [spaceguard.org](http://spaceguard.org). Read about the club. Watch the videos. Fill out the online registration form.