

# RAPP

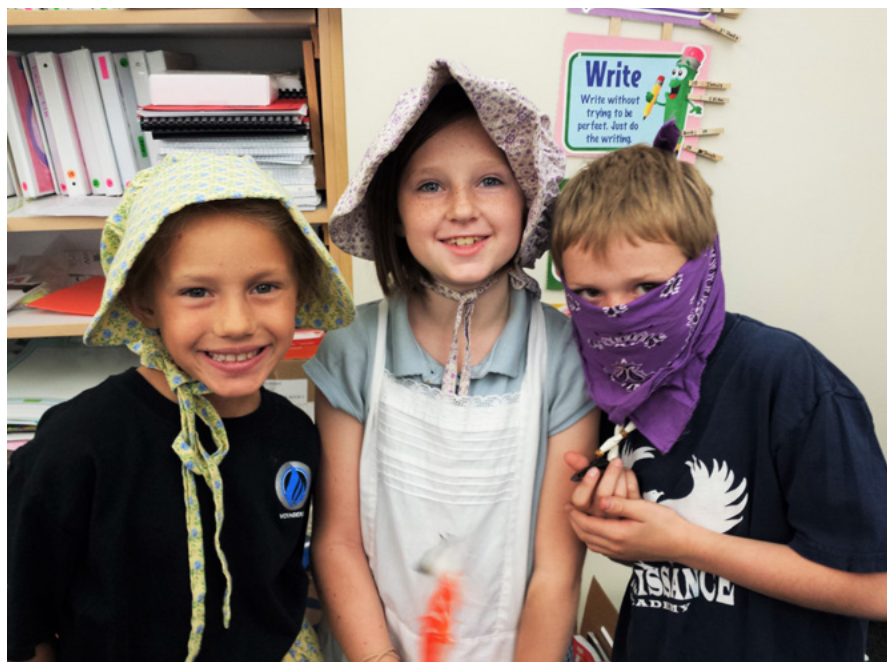
December 2017



## Important Dates



12/4-8	Annual FEC Food Drive
12/13	5th Grade Field Trip - Leonardo Museum
12/14	Kindergarten Christmas Presentation 10:15am
12/18-1/1	Christmas Break
1/5	FEC Meeting 8am
1/8-12	DIBELS Testing
1/11	Kindergarten Field Trip
1/12	Phoenix 200 Club Field Trip - 'Paddington'
1/15	Martin Luther King Day (NO SCHOOL)
1/17	Board Meeting 7pm
1/18	Inspirations Award Night
1/19	Last Day Term 1
1/22	Term 2 Begins
1/30	5th Grade Field Trip - Biz Town



## Contents



Announcements	2
FEC	3
RA Happenings	4-6
Phoenix 200 Club	7
Culture Moment	8
Reading Corner	8
Faculty Spotlight	9-12
Lunch Menu	13

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# Announcements



## Inspirations

What do you wonder about? What do you imagine? Here's your chance to show the world! It's time for our annual Inspirations Art Contest! This year's theme is 'Wonder.' The categories are: literature; visual arts; photography; and 3-D art.

### Important dates:

**January 11** – Deadline for artwork/entries

**January 18** – Awards night

Mark your calendars! Submission forms will be available via the FEC Facebook page. This will be a fun and exciting contest and we can't wait to see what everyone comes up with.

## Utah Senate Visual Arts Competition

The Utah Senate Visual Arts Competition is open to all ninth grade students who wish to create an artwork to submit. Make sure your work depicts the theme "The People of Utah" and has at least one human figure. Presentation is important, so have the work framed or mounted in a museum quality manner. Submit the work by December 15th and follow the instructions at <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/900004668?user=app>.

## Spelling Bee

Class Spelling Bees will begin after the new year. For students anxious to get a head start, grade level lists are posted below, on the FEC Facebook page and on our website at <https://renacademy.org/spelling-bee-2018>. More study help can be found at [www.spellingbee.com/word-club](http://www.spellingbee.com/word-club).

[1st Grade Spelling List](#)  
[2nd Grade Spelling List](#)  
[3rd Grade Spelling List](#)  
[4th Grade Spelling List](#)

[5th Grade Spelling List](#)  
[6th Grade Spelling List](#)  
[7th Grade Spelling List](#)  
[8th Grade Spelling List](#)



# Family Engagement Committee (FEC)

## FEC Presidency

**MARY MECHAM** President  
[mmecham@gmail.com](mailto:mmecham@gmail.com)

**JESSY FEVERYEAR** VP of Committees  
[jessyjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:jessyjensen@yahoo.com)

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**AMBER GUYMON** Secretary  
[acguymon@gmail.com](mailto:acguymon@gmail.com)

**KATHY BROOKSBY** Treasurer  
[high6@xmission.com](mailto:high6@xmission.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.

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

## Battle of the Books

Lists for Battle of the Books 2017-18, as well as updated information about events and registration can be found at the Battle of the Books blog: [renaissancebob.blogspot.com](http://renaissancebob.blogspot.com).

If you have any questions not answered by the blog please feel free to email me at [andrewandlessa@gmail.com](mailto:andrewandlessa@gmail.com).



## FEC Annual Food Drive

The FEC Annual Food Donation Drive will be December 4-8th. All donations will be donated to Tabitha's Way, a local food pantry in American Fork. We will be having a friendly competition between grades to see which grade can donate the most. The grade with the most donations (weighed in lbs) will receive a FULL WEEK of Free Dress, awarded the last week of school in December.

All donations are accepted, but please consider the following, most needed, items

- Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Bisquick or pancake mix
- Rice
- Dry Beans
- Hygiene Items (Shampoo, Conditioner, soap, feminine products, etc)
- Peanut Butter
- Jam/Jellies
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Flour and Sugar
- Boxed cake, muffin, cornbread, brownie mixes
- Cooking Oil
- Laundry and dishwashing detergent
- Diapers - Adult and Baby (size 4-5 most needed)
- Toilet Paper
- Empty Egg Cartons

**\*\*Donations should have dates of 2014 and newer.**  
No class jars. No home canning





# ❄️ What's going on at Renaissance?

## 'The Sound of Music' Production



## 4th Grade Book Reports

For term 1 Mrs. Wyatt's class was assigned to read a mystery book and turn it into a cereal box. They had to take what they read for the term and create a brand new, one of a kind, cereal representing their book.

They did a fantastic job showcasing their creativity and the idea behind each of their books! Check out some of their creations!

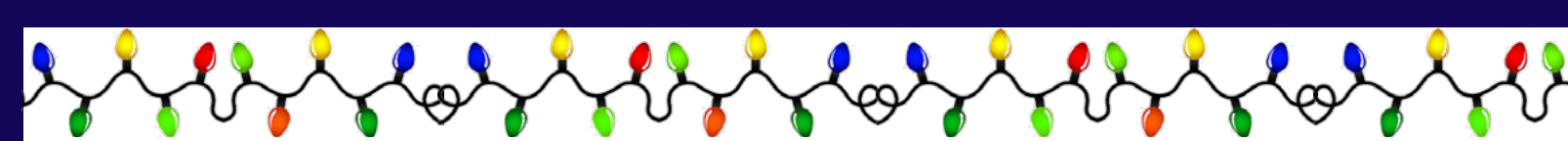


## 3rd Grade Field Trip - 'This is the Place'

The third grade classes had a great experience at the "This Is the Place Park" on Thursday Nov. 9th. We took a train ride around the park and learned how the train really helped to settle the West. We went into the 3rd largest teepee in the US. Inside a Navajo woman showed us how the young girls would grind corn as their mothers or grandmothers would sing and chant to them. She showed us how they would carry their babies on the cradle boards. We learned about the male and female hogans and what each is used for. The students had a great time learning about animal tracks and how to tell the difference. We got to identify 12 tracks, even a frog's tracks. Finally, we were taught what a long process it is to get animals hides prepared to be used as clothes, blankets or teepees. The students loved being able to feel the furs and hides of many different animals such as minks, buffaloes, deer, beaver, badgers, and even skunks. Even though we didn't get to pull the hand carts, some of the students did enjoy posing for a picture as if they were pulling them. On Fun Friday, Mrs; Ahlstrom's classes enjoyed dressing up in some of her pioneer and Native American clothes.







## Reading Buddies - Kindergarten & 3rd Grade

Teachers Ms. Hooker and Ms. Patel have combined efforts this year to share reading with their students in an extra fun way. Patel's third graders and Hooker's Jr Academy are now Book Buddies and spend 30 minutes every Friday reading together in alternating classrooms. Kagan structures are used to select new buddies each week and each class looks forward to weekly interaction with the other. The Book Buddies is improving reading skills such as comprehension and voice. It also promotes friendship and support between students of differing grades and ages.



## 6th Grade Science Experiments

The 6th graders are learning about the forces of gravity and the law of inertia: objects in motion stay in motion until another force hits them. Our students were challenged to make a model of inertia; in our case they were able to use plates and a marble. After making observations with one plate and a marble, they discovered if they "cut" away a piece of the force keeping the marble in the plate the marble could escape the force holding it in. This led to some interesting engineering designs as they created more forces from pieces of plate to create "pathways" for their marble to move within the confines of the "force". From this activity many students have the Law of Inertia memorized.



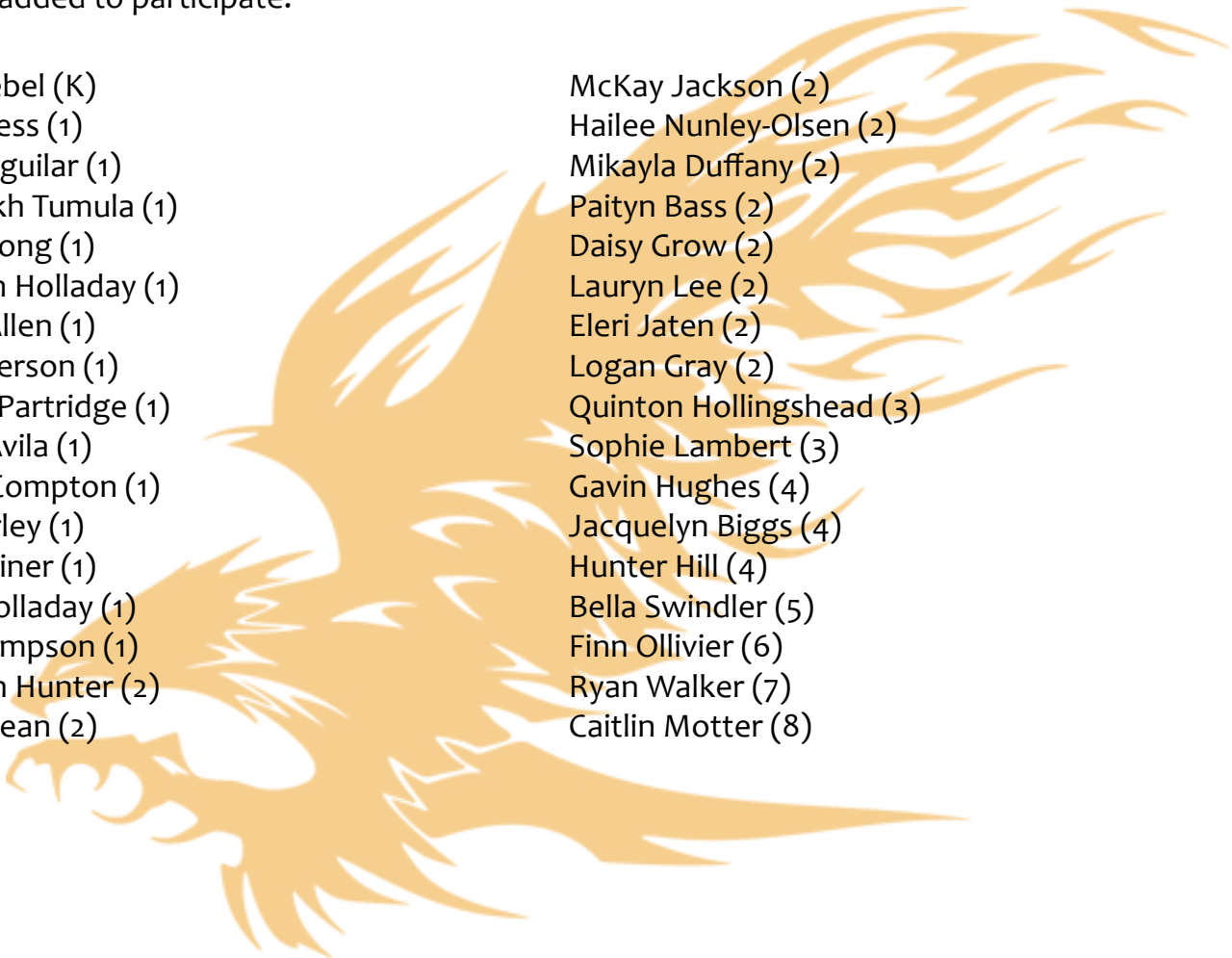
# Phoenix 200 Club



Congratulations to our lower elementary group of Phoenix 200 Club Winners! The following students are invited to enjoy a movie field trip to see the new movie 'Paddington 2' on Friday, January 12th at Thanksgiving Point Megaplex. We plan to leave the school at 9:30 am and to return by 12:30 pm. Students should wear regular spirit dress to school on Friday 1/12. Please email me at [smccap-pin@renacademy.org](mailto:smccap-pin@renacademy.org) to give permission for your student to attend this field trip. Students will be transported to and from Thanksgiving Point by bus. Please also email to indicate if you would like to help out as a field trip chaperone. Please keep note of the student list over the next few weeks as names are added to participate.

Ollie Goebel (K)  
Caryss Hess (1)  
Amaya Aguilar (1)  
Shanmukh Tumula (1)  
Felicity Long (1)  
Benjamin Holladay (1)  
Hunter Allen (1)  
Tian Epperson (1)  
Braxton Partridge (1)  
Lilliann Avila (1)  
William Compton (1)  
Lydia Turley (1)  
Jaxon Griner (1)  
Devyn Holladay (1)  
Jace Thompson (1)  
Jocelyn Hunter (2)  
Christy Bean (2)

McKay Jackson (2)  
Hailee Nunley-Olsen (2)  
Mikayla Duffany (2)  
Paityn Bass (2)  
Daisy Grow (2)  
Lauryn Lee (2)  
Eleri Jaten (2)  
Logan Gray (2)  
Quinton Hollingshead (3)  
Sophie Lambert (3)  
Gavin Hughes (4)  
Jacquelyn Biggs (4)  
Hunter Hill (4)  
Bella Swindler (5)  
Finn Ollivier (6)  
Ryan Walker (7)  
Caitlin Motter (8)



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 they 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.



# Culture Moment

At Renaissance Academy, each student has the unique opportunity to learn a new world language! The languages we teach here are Spanish, Arabic or Chinese. We love to celebrate different cultures and learn about other customs from around the world!



Let’s Learn a New Phrase!  
**English** - “Every day may not be good...but there is good in every day!”

**Arabic** - ربما كل يوم ليس جيدا ولكن يوجد ما جيد في كل يوم  
*rubima kul yoom laysa jayedan walaken yoojad jayed ji kul yoom*

**Chinese** - 不一定天天都是美好的一天，但每天都會有美好的事發生！  
*bù yī dìng tiān tiān dōu shì měi hǎo de yī tiān, dàn měi tiān dōu huì yǒu měi hǎo de shì fā shēng!*

**Spanish** - “Todos los dias no son buenos...pero hay buenas cosas en todos los dias!”

December Around the World!  
Different countries all around the world celebrate different holidays. These are some holidays that are celebrated in December...

Holiday	Date	Description
St. Nicholas Day	December 6th	This holiday is celebrated in many European countries. Children place a shoe outside their door for St. Nicholas in hopes that treasures are left by St. Nicholas
Christmas	December 25th	This holiday is celebrated in many countries around the world and is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
Boxing Day	December 26th	This holiday is popular in Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Originally created to give people in the service industry the day off, has now become a major shopping day.
Hanukkah	December 12-20 (this year)	This Jewish holiday celebrates the rededication of a Holy Temple.
Kwanzaa	December 26-January 1	This holiday is celebrated in the U.S. and other countries of African diaspora to celebrate African heritage.

For more info on these holidays you can visit [this website!](#)

# Reading Moment, Reading Corner

Here are some tips for parents, now that the school year is well underway.

- Talk to your child everyday about school. Ask them what they learned, what they liked best, what they did not like at all... no shrugs or incomplete sentences allowed.
- Have children read non-fiction books, as well as fiction.
- Children should see parents reading every day.
- Do not make children read for a certain amount of time... reading should be fun.
- Play word games with your students. (Boggle Junior, Scrabble Junior, Apples to Apples)

Christmas is a great time to have some of the gifts received include books and games that will enrich your child’s learning.



# Faculty Spotlight

Meet our 2nd Grade team



**Alysa Dominguez, 2nd Grade Teacher**  
Alysa Dominguez has been teaching at Renaissance Academy for 11 years now. She loves teaching 2nd grade because of the kids, the curriculum, and it’s the best grade! Mrs. Dominguez and her husband live in American Fork with their two dogs, Jack and Lilly. She enjoys spending time with them and their extended families. She enjoys music, movies, shopping, sports, crafting and considers herself a foodie. She is thrilled to be at Renaissance Academy and a part of this great community.

**Fun fact:** I love the beach and love to visit as often as possible. Last summer I went to Kauai and swam with dolphins out in the wild!



**Anna Felton 2nd Grade Teacher**  
Miss Felton comes from Brisbane, Australia, and loves teaching the younger grades! In her spare time, she has a hair-styling business and a baking business. If she finds any MORE spare time she enjoys yoga, spending time with friends and FaceTiming her cute nieces back home. She’s loves to travel and explore new places, and has visited almost 20 countries. She’s lived and taught in England, Australia, and now the US. In London, she worked as a nanny before becoming a teacher.

**Fun fact:** I would see Ewan McGregor every day in London as his kids went to the same school as the kids she nannied!





### Kellie Harman, 2nd Grade Chinese Immersion Partner

Miss Harman 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 Australian International School, as well as having lived in New Zealand. She enjoys traveling and exploring new places which is made easier by living in different countries around the world. In addition to teaching, she has worked in educational publishing in Australia for three years.

After spending a few years out of the classroom, she returned to teaching because she loves seeing students discover new skills and abilities and grow in confidence with their own learning. This year she have moved from 4th Grade to 2nd Grade DLI which has been a new adventure! She loves the different personality that each student brings to the classroom and the new ideas that we can learn from each other.

**Fun Fact:** I have traveled to 16 different countries. My favorite is Austria.



### Dawn Lee 2nd Grade Chinese Immersion

Miss Lee was born and raised in Taiwan, where you can find beautiful mountains and beaches, and the best seafood. She studied Chinese Literature at National Taiwan Normal University. After receiving her Bachelor's degree and teaching certificate, she came to the State and joined a program at Castleton University, where she was able to study in Education for my Master's degree and teach Chinese at the same time. She has been enjoying teaching because she has the opportunity to see her own language and culture from different perspectives through questions and ideas from students.

In her leisure time, she loves reading, watching movies, playing the piano, spending time with her family and friends, and traveling around the world.

As a language teacher, she believes that we learn from our mistakes. Therefore, she always encourage my students to try to use the language we are learning, and do her best to create a safe learning environment for them.

**Fun fact:** My fear of snakes. And ironically, my Chinese zodiac is the snake. I can't touch or look at snakes, even in photos. I used to cover all the pictures of snakes in my science textbooks when I grew up. Now I learn to overcome my fear to snakes because I teach lessons about animals in the science class.



### Jamie Smith, 2nd Grade Aide

Mrs. Smith is new to the fun second grade team this year as their aide. She loves working with the second grade and finds helping students and teachers rewarding. She has previously enjoyed working as a second grade aide before coming to Renaissance Academy. Mrs. Smith is married with a daughter in third grade who attends Renaissance Academy.

**Fun fact:** In her free time she enjoys spending time with family, playing outdoors, crafting, music, and animals

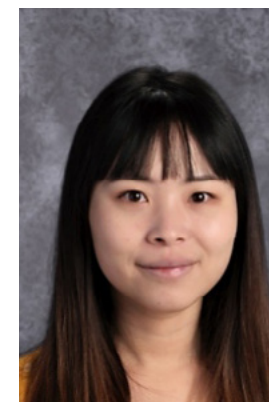


### Julie Ahlstrom, 3rd Grade Immersion Partner

Mrs. Julie Ahlstrom is Renaissance Academy's 3rd grade teacher for English and Writing in a Chinese Immersion split. She is enjoying her class very much and working with the Renaissance directors and staff. She has found the third grade children to be sweet, inquisitive, and trying their best. She loves challenging her students to be creative. The students in her class have enjoyed being able to create skits to perform in class. She loves reading books with her class and encouraging her students to create their own stories and poems. She believes reading out loud with our children is the best practice for parents who want their children to succeed.

She served an LDS mission to Argentina and then graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from BYU. Her minor was in Language Arts. Mrs. Ahlstrom has a wealth of teaching experience, having taught 5th grade at Saratoga Shores, 4th grade at Vineyard, and 1st grade and Kindergarten at Wasatch in Provo. Mrs. Ahlstrom was born and raised in Provo, Utah, the 3rd of nine children, six brothers and 2 sisters. She married Douglas Ahlstrom and raised seven children mostly in the Tooele area. She has 16 grandchildren, with 2 on the way, and loves having them visit.

**Fun fact:** Among my interests are quilting, oil painting landscapes, talking with people, and camping.



### Di Wu, 3rd Grade Chinese Immersion

Ms. Wu is born in a very pretty city in China. It is very cold in the winter and the summer is very short. Ms. Wu went to Beijing for her college and then moved to the US. She is the only child and her parents are still living in her hometown. Ms. Wu enjoys teaching at school a lot, especially when her students talk with her in Chinese. Next week, in Ms Wu's class, students are going to do some experiments on gravity. Also we will finish learning the Kung Fu Dance next week, which we are going to perform on the Chinese New Year party!

**Fun fact:** My Chinese name is very popular in China and every school I went to there was always someone had the same name in my class!



