

# RAPP

March 2016

## Important Dates in March

2/29-3/4	SAGE Interim testing
3/2	4th grade field trip - Bean Museum
3/2	5th grade Patriotic Program 7pm
3/4	FEC Meeting 8am
3/7	Teacher Professional Development - NO SCHOOL
3/7	2016-17 Lottery 5:30pm
3/11	Inspirations Regional Awards Gala 7:00-8:30pm
3/11	6th Grade World Language field trip
3/12	Ballroom Team Match @ BYU
3/15	NYC/DC Trip - final payment due
3/15	2nd Grade field trip - Clark Planetarium
3/15	Term 3 Faculty Event
3/16	MS Dance field trip - BYU
3/16	Board Meeting
3/17-19	Elementary Play Performances 7pm
3/21	Term 4 starts
3/24	Kindergarten field trip - Aquarium
3/24	Middle East Feast 6:30pm
3/28	Battle of the Books - Final Battle Assembly
3/29	FEC Classic Skating Night
3/31	Author Night 7pm

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The Renaissance Academy Printing Press



# Announcements

## ALEKS & Imagine Learning

This year we have received two grants for wonderful, adaptive math and reading programs that are available for use at home:

ALEKS is a math program for grades 3-9 which uses adaptive questioning to determine exactly what a student knows, then instructs them on the topics they are most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses them to ensure that topics learned are retained. ALEKS is a supplemental program we are using in addition to the My Math & Glencoe Math Curriculum followed by homeroom and math teachers and is meant to fill gaps or challenge those ready for more.

Imagine Learning is an adaptive reading program for grades k-3 in which students are given lessons geared to their individual skill level. The program incorporates the five essential components of reading: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, along with reading strategies, grammar, spelling, word recognition and much more. Lexile levels are assessed regularly and you student will receive guidance tailored to their current readiness level. Imagine Learning is a supplemental program used in addition to the Treasures English & Language Arts program used daily by homeroom teachers at RA.

We love how these programs pinpoint exactly where kids are at and what they may be struggling with. This data is valuable for teachers and parents so they know what individualized instruction is needed. Both programs can be accessed through computers, iPads, or Chromebooks, and are meant to be used 15-20 minutes daily (at home or at school) with a minimum of 60 minutes per week. If your student is using either program at home, we ask that you please do not assist them in answering questions as it may affect the level of material they are presented with and could move them to lessons that are above their current readiness level. To access reports about what your student has mastered or needs more help with, for current Lexile levels to assist in finding proper reading materials for your child, or for questions regarding your child's login information, please contact me or their classroom teacher. I am available to answer any additional questions you may have regarding these or other programs used at Renaissance Academy any time.

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## Lottery and Re-enrollment

Returning student re-enrollment for 2016-17 is now open at [http://renacademy.org/schedules\\_enrollment.html](http://renacademy.org/schedules_enrollment.html) Please re-enroll your students for the 2016-17 school year as soon as possible. All current student names are now in our lottery system. Please also remember to download and complete the returning student packet if any pertinent student or emergency contact information has changed and needs to be updated. This returning student packet will be available online from March 1st. Contact Susi Blackhurst at [sblackhurst@renacademy.org](mailto:sblackhurst@renacademy.org) with any questions.

Our new student lottery for the 2016-17 school year will be held on Monday, March 7th at 5:30 pm. Please ensure all new student names are entered into our lottery system before Monday, March 7th. Please remind any friends who may be considering RA next year to make sure their names are in our lottery asap. Our seats will fill up.



# Announcements

## Math Tutor

Our wonderful math aide is available after school for private or small group tutoring. \$20/hr private, \$10/hr small group sessions. Contact Ethan Swanson at [eswanson@renacademy.org](mailto:eswanson@renacademy.org) or 801-698-0272 for availability.



## Chinese Tutoring

Chinese tutoring is available from many of our Chinese DLI teachers (contact them individually via email) or April Wang (not an RA employee but currently tutoring students from other schools). April can be reached at 801-888-1917. Rates vary. Contact teachers directly.

## Traffic

**Please use caution** during drop off and pick up times. Drive slowly as there are children crossing the streets. Please **do not** park in the Learning Dynamics parking lot next door.

## Dress Code

Please remind your students/remember to dress your students in appropriate dress code clothing when they come to school. With the cold weather, we have seen an increase of inappropriate clothing (especially sweatshirts) being worn to school. Please ensure your student comes to school wearing a dress code appropriate sweatshirt to be worn in the school building. Non-dress code jackets cannot be worn in class or the school building. Students who are not wearing a dress code jacket/sweatshirt will be asked to remove it when indoors. (Sweaters, sweater vests, cardigans, blazers - may be worn in any approved top color i.e., red, navy, white, light yellow, light blue. Pullover or zip-up hoodies - navy blue or red only. Slogans, logos, and brand names are not acceptable.) Middle School students may have their non-dress code clothing items collected by their teacher and returned at the end of the day if they choose to wear these items in class.

Please visit our website for further information on our dress code.



## Cinderella Play

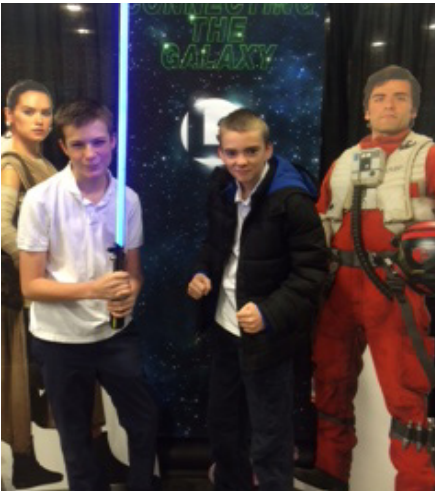
The Elementary School performance of Cinderella "Once Upon a Dream" will be on March 17, 18, 19th at 7:00 pm. Admission is free.

\*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# RA Happenings

Middle School Field trip to the Utah STEM Fest



Middle School Field trip to the Capitol building



# RA Happenings

## Spelling Bee Results

The annual Renaissance Academy Spelling Bee was held on the evening of the 18th. The contest was amazing! We had a very fierce competition that lasted 30 rounds. Our spellers spelled their way through hundreds of words, almost reaching the end of the list. If you couldn't make it, you really missed something special. We started with eighteen spellers and slowly reached the top three after over an hour of spelling.

The results were:

- 1st Place - Andy Astin (6th Grade)
- 2nd Place - Ziyad Azar (6th Grade)
- 3rd Place - Quinton Jones (3rd Grade)

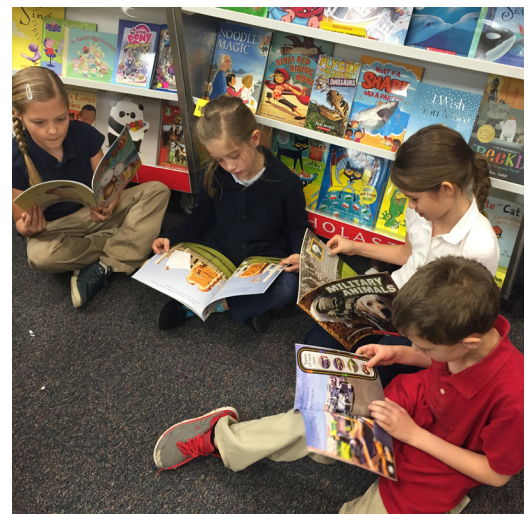
The winning word was "Hieroglyphics."

We had a good turn out in the audience, but you should consider coming next year even if you don't have a speller participating. You won't be disappointed! Last year our winning speller went on to place 3rd at the Utah Regional Spelling Bee. Our school has some of the best spellers in the state. Make sure to wish Andy luck at this year's Regionals at UVU on March 15th where he has a chance to go to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. if he wins!

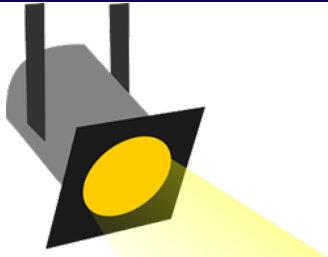


Finally a big thank you to everyone who helped out, and to the FEC for sponsoring the event. You made it memorable!

## Book Fair



# Teacher Spotlight - 2nd Grade Team



Miss Dominguez, Miss Gardiner, Mrs. Dominguez, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Lee

## **Mrs. Dominguez - 2nd Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Dominguez is from Los Altos, California and is currently living in American Fork with her husband Aaron and two dogs, Lilly and Jack. This is her 9th year at Renaissance Academy. She is passionate about teaching because she wants to make a positive difference in the lives of her students. She loves to encourage her students to work hard and to have fun while learning. Mrs. Dominguez enjoys crafting, considers herself a foodie (thanks to her husband who is an excellent cook), and is always up for watching a movie. In her class, they are learning about saving and spending, goods and services, supply and demand, and making and following a budget. With that, they are saving money as a class for a few weeks. They will make a budget and spend their money on whatever the students decide. They will also use fake money where students will experience what it's like to pay "rent" for their desks and other items in the classroom. To finish off the unit, they will make piggy banks out of paper maché and balloons for the students to take home so they can start saving at home!



# Teacher Spotlight - 2nd Grade Team

## Mrs. Gardner - 2nd Grade Chinese Immersion Partner

Mrs. Gardner loves teaching in the Chinese Immersion program because she has double the students to love! She's amazed how quickly the kids pick up the language and enforces a strict "no Chinese in the English classroom" rule so she doesn't get outsmarted ;). Her favorite part about teaching is the relationship she gets to build with so many awesome kids every year! She enjoys playing with them at recess and attending their events outside of school. She believes her influence is best felt one-on-one, and does her best to make each student feel special by taking time to get to know them in that way. Her favorite classroom activities this year have been teaching her kids about a new music composer each week and having them creatively interpret their music in different ways. Mrs. Gardner could eat a bag of sweet potato fries every day and when she's not teaching or jamming on the piano, would prefer to be playing in the mountains with her husband!



## Miss Lee - 2nd Grade Chinese Immersion Teacher

Miss Lee grew up in Taiwan and Chinese is her mother tongue. I love my language, especially the characters! With her passion for Chinese language, she decided to study Chinese Literature at National Taiwan Normal University, the very first teacher college in Taiwan. She loves reading, playing the piano, and traveling in her leisure time. Meeting new people and learning from different cultures are always fascinating. She has been to Asia (of course), North America and Central America!



# Teacher Spotlight - 2nd Grade Team



## Miss Gardiner - 2nd Grade Teacher

This is Miss Gardiner's second year at Renaissance Academy. She grew up in Santa Barbara, California and absolutely loves the beautiful weather and beach. She also love to go surfing with her family. Growing up near the beach inspired her classroom theme of "Surf's Up in 2nd Grade". In her free time she loves to do anything creative (especially art), entertain/throw parties, and bake yummy treats. Miss Gardiner graduated from BYU in Elementary Education with a minor in Teaching English Language Learners. She's had the dream to be a teacher since high school. Because creativity is something she truly enjoys, she wants to include it in as many aspects of her teaching and classroom as she can! She absolutely loves seeing when her students feel successful at mastering a difficult task/concept and when they experience the joy of learning in some way!



## Miss Dominguez - 2nd Grade Aide

Miss Dominguez is from Southern California and this is her second year working at Renaissance Academy. She loves to go on road trips and attend concerts. Her favorite musical group is the Tenors. Miss Dominguez received a Bachelors Degree in History at the University of Nebraska and is currently studying Administration Support at UVU. In the 2nd grade, Miss Dominguez does small pull-out reading groups with the students. They read short stories together and work on spelling. Her favorite thing about working with the students, is seeing when they grasp a new concept or when they read a new word that they couldn't read before. She loves seeing their excitement and loves to give them praises for their accomplishments.





# Phoenix 200 Club

**Congratulations** to the following group of students who were invited to participate in the latest Phoenix Club 'Mystery Motivator' reward field trip. The Phoenix 200 Club field trip was to see the new movie 'Kung Fu Panda 3' at Thanksgiving Point!

Alex Farmer (1st)  
Laura Santos (4th)  
Sophia Harris (1st)  
Robby Uzelac (3rd)  
Amado Vasquez (5th)  
Jack Christensen (1st)  
Brahm Bina (3rd)  
JD Brown (2nd)  
Lance Barton (Kindergarten)  
Johnny Knight (2nd)  
Alexis Gardner (Kindergarten)  
Nara Johnson (1st)  
Aurelia Thompson (2nd)  
Kajetan Hamilton (3rd)  
Addaline Zimmerman (4th)  
Parker Stewart (5th)  
Rian Mofu (5th)  
Eden Brown (5th)  
Aaliyah Nelson (5th)  
Lizzie Christensen (6th)



For those of you who are new to our school, 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 and Be Safe.



# FEC Announcements

## FEC Meeting

Come and join us for our monthly Family Engagement Committee meeting this Friday, March 4, 2016 in the faculty lounge at 8:00 a.m. It's always a privilege to see new faces at our meetings!

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## Get Involved!

The Family Engagement Committee (FEC) is looking for parents to get involved with us next year!!

We will have a few presidency positions open as well as opportunities to help out with heading various committees or joining on as a committee member. If you are interested in being involved with brainstorming ideas, planning, organizing, working with some really great parents or just having more general involvement in the activities and events going on at Renaissance Academy please let us know and we would love to have you involved in the capacity that works best for you.

Please email Alyson Harper (alysue23@gmail.com) and she can let you know more about the opportunities for 2016-2017.

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## Buddy Bench

Take a peek at the playground and you will see our new Buddy Bench. The FEC was able to purchase the bench this year for our playground. The idea is based on a little boy in Pennsylvania's idea that we can eliminate loneliness by fostering kindness on our playgrounds. Our FEC is so excited to be able to bring this idea to our school and to support the importance of kindness. Check out more about the buddy bench idea on their website. There is also a short video:

<http://buddybench.org/what-is-the-buddy-bench/>



Support Renaissance Academy when making purchases on Amazon! Shop through smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase will be donated to Renaissance Academy. It is the same site and prime still works! SO EASY!



# FEC Announcements

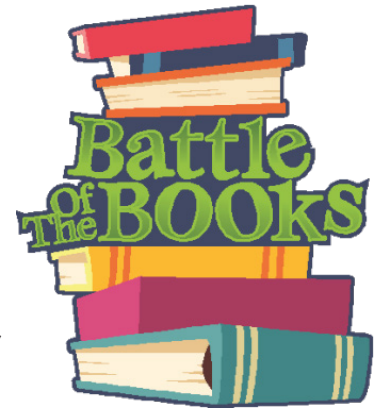
## Inspirations

Inspirations Awards Night for Regionals will be held March 11 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the school.

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## Battle of the Books

March is Battle of the Books month and we are so excited!!! For our K through 2nd grade students we have 2 more quiz tables. The first one is on Thursday, March 3rd and the second one is on Thursday, March 17th. We have been blown away by their knowledge of the books on their lists! For our students participating in the team competitions, Friday, March 11th is the day of our 3rd/4th grade team battles (they will be held in the morning at school) and Friday, March 25th is the day of our 5th/6th grade team battles. The top 2 teams in each category will be competing in their final battles on Monday, March 28th at an assembly! We want to thank our local Target store for sponsoring our Battle of the Books competition.



## Lost and Found

Come and check out the lost and found items located in the gym. We will post pictures of most lost items on Facebook. Remember to please label all jackets and lunch boxes. For smaller items, such as phones, iPods and glasses, please check the Lost and Found in the office.

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## Attention all Volunteers!

Are you logging your hours? Please pop into the front office before heading to your volunteering! Use the laptop to select your name and sign in. We need to have you sign in for safety reasons, and the program will automatically track your hours throughout the year for you! If you would like to log past hours from home go to [www.helpcounter.net/volunteer](http://www.helpcounter.net/volunteer).

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Please do not use your cell phones any time during pick-up and drop-off.





# KINDNESS CERTIFIED SCHOOL

This certificate is awarded to

## Renaissance Academy

In recognition of your commitment to creating a culture of kindness on your campus.

**KINDNESS MATTERS!**



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jill McManigal".

Jill McManigal  
Kids for Peace Co-Founder & Executive Director



# Extend classroom learning into your home.

With Imagine Learning's new **Anywhere Access** feature, when your students leave school they can log in to Imagine Learning at home and pick up right where they left off.

## + Imagine Learning is coming home

### With the Anywhere Access feature:

- Students can experience Imagine Learning outside of school by using a computer or tablet.
- Each student's progress within the curriculum is retained, meaning students see exactly what they need to learn, exactly when they need it.



## + Compatible Hardware

- Imagine Learning works on PCs, Macs, iPads, Chromebooks, Android tablets, and Windows tablets. For a complete list of system requirements, please visit [support.imaginelearning.com](https://support.imaginelearning.com)
- Imagine Learning is best utilized with headphones (or speakers) and a microphone.

### How to log in

#### For PC and Mac computers:



- 1 In your internet browser, go to this web address:

[go.imaginelearning.com](https://go.imaginelearning.com)

If you see the Unity Web Player screen, click **Install Now!** and follow instructions.

- 2 Enter your **site code**:
- 3 Enter your account name and password:

#### For tablets and Chromebooks:



- 1 Download the Imagine Learning app from your device app store.
- 2 Launch the Imagine Learning app.
- 3 Enter your **site code**:
- 4 Enter your account name and password:

**Account name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Password:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Renaissance Academy

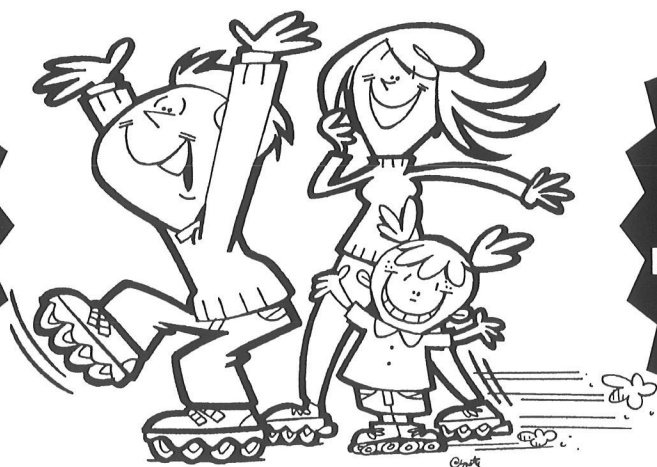
## FREE Family Skate Night

Free Admission For You And Your Whole Family

**Tue. Mar. 29th**  
**5:30-8:30p.m.**

**Skate Rental-\$1**  
**Blades-\$3 & up**  
**Scooters-\$3**

You may bring  
your own  
Skates, Blades  
& Scooters



**Discount**  
**Activities**  
**Available**  
**Only \$2 Ea.**

Bounce Zone, Blast Zone  
Jungle Climb  
3D Laser Tag  
or \$5 for 3 hr.  
Unlimited  
Wristband

Bring Flyer or say you are with  
school to get \$1 skate rentals

**Rollin' Fun**  
**For The**  
**Whole Family**



**\$3 Dinner Deal**  
**Available**  
Nachos or Pizza  
& drink or Hotdog,  
Chips & Drink

**9151 S. 255 W. Sandy 568-9781**