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**CONGRATULATIONS DENISE HITCH -
YOU'RE THE 2008 JOSTENS
RENAISSANCE REVIEW ROCK STAR!**

**Online Registration
Now Available!
for the
2008 Jostens Renaissance
National Conference**

<http://renaissancenational.jostens.com>

**Jostens Renaissance Review #17
May 22, 2008**

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Conference Information

Online Registration Now Available

It's time to get registered for the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference! Our online registration is now available. Only credit card registrations will be accepted online, but you can download a registration form (on the Conference Registration page of the registration site in the Mail or Fax section) and send it in along with your check.

Here is the Online Registration Link: <http://renaissancenational.jostens.com>

We have also posted this link on our Educator Services website in two areas for future reference:

- Go to www.jostens.com/edserv and click on "Register online>>" link under the "Turn It Up! icon" in the middle of the page
- Go to the conference section of our website and get the link to register there: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_310.asp

The 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference is going to be another amazing experience. We'll see you in Phoenix!

Conference Registration Rates

Once again, it pays to get your Jostens Renaissance National Conference registration in early. Register early to take advantage of the available price break! The registration fee includes admittance to all sessions, conference materials, five meals and a Jostens Renaissance National Conference T-Shirt. The postmarked date determines the registration fee:

- Registrations postmarked by **5/15/08** - **\$275**
 - Registrations postmarked **5/16/08** - **7/3/08** - **\$300**
 - On-Site registration (**after 7-3-08**) - **\$325**
-

Conference Location Link!

Jostens Renaissance is very pleased to announce that the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference will be held in **Phoenix, Arizona July 11-13, 2008**. All Jostens Renaissance sessions will be held at the **Phoenix Convention Center** and the luxurious **Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel** will serve as our host hotel!



To view all hotel information, visit the following link: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_350.asp

Jostens Renaissance National Conference Featured Presenters Now Posted on Website

Click on the link below to check out the lineup of outstanding presenters scheduled to present at the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_315.asp

As we receive and accept breakout session submissions, we'll post them to the site as well. You'll be able to start determining the sessions that you'd like to attend in advance! Keep checking the Jostens Educator Services website for updated information on the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

Your Ideas

CONGRATULATIONS DENISE HITCH - YOU'RE THE 2008 JOSTENS RENAISSANCE REVIEW ROCK STAR!

This Year's Winning JRR Idea - Passport to Success: Anything's Possible!

Submitted by: **Denise Hitch**

Oakdale High School

Oakdale, CA

Shocking data often serves a purpose, jarring us into motion to make a change or move things up the "priority list" and search for solutions. That is what happened at Oakdale High School when we heard the staggering statistic from Rick Dufor's book, *Whatever It Takes*. Dufor states that, of the students who drop out of high school, 75% of them make that decision by October of the freshman year. They may "stick around" for four years and enjoy the social offerings at your school, but they are not there for the academics because it does not meet the needs of their plan to drop out. What can you do as an educator with such distressing news?

At OHS, we implemented our first ever "Passport to Success: Anything's Possible!" Scheduled right after the close of first quarter, freshman got to hear from those in the trenches - students and staff with real life stories to share about "how to do high school right." Students began in the Main Gym for a short opening and then traveled with their "passport" to four stations. One stop was in the theater to hear from seven high profile students who shared how they have overcome obstacles to be successful in school. One young man, a star football player, told how he has had to "go it alone" since his father died when he was twelve. A cheerleader challenged the students, asking them if they thought it was hard to get out of bed in the morning. She shared that, because of her juvenile arthritis, she knows what it is like to not be able to get out of bed in the morning. She talked about the pain she feels every day but pushes herself to be a successful student and cheerleader. Our star quarterback shared how he is not able to accept offers from colleges that are currently recruiting him because he did not take college prep classes and get the required grades.

Another station allowed students to hear from select, positive staff members who shared tips on how to do well in school. Students were divided into four small groups so about thirty went to one of four classrooms. Popular teachers shared a David Letterman style "Top Ten" power point on the do's and don'ts of being successful in school. Another stop was in the small gym where students saw a skit between the Vice Principal (playing the role of a student) and a highly visible senior (playing the role of the VP) who has battled cancer and is a star athlete. The skit was concluded with this young man telling his story, his personal triumph over cancer while maintaining his college prep status.

Another station included a short motivational video and students got to try on the famous Oakdale High School red Jostens graduation gown and sign their name on a gown as their commitment to

graduate in 2011 with their class.

Although it is too early to measure the effectiveness of this program, quarterly follow up will be done with students by checking their progress and awarding prizes to students who are being successful, moving toward earning passing grades and those who have excellent attendance. Teachers submit names of freshman students who are working to be successful in school and drawings are held throughout the quarter for movie passes, gift cards, and iPods.

For more information about the Oakdale High School Passport to Success: Anything's Possible! program, contact Denise Hitch at dhitch@oakdale.k12.ca.us

Our 2nd Place Winner - RWHS Art Contest

Submitted by: **Chad Bray**

Red Wing High School

Red Wing, MN

Each Spring we hold an art contest in which all students at RWHS are eligible to enter and win. All entries must be the original work of the student which is not copied from a published photograph, magazine or book illustration, album cover or any other artwork. If selected as a winner, the student agrees to give the piece to the school's permanent art collection, which is on display in our cafeteria. Each year we choose 3 winners, and each winner receives \$50 cash. If the winning piece needs to be framed, we have a local gallery frame it for us before adding it to our collection.

The head of our Art Department is very involved with this project. Since she basically promotes and organizes the entire event, it does not take much time or effort from our Renaissance group. Also, she recruits a couple community members to help with the judging of the art work. It is a great way to involve a department that receives very little recognition, and it allows students to show off their talents. Last year we had 27 students submit a piece for the contest (our school has around 900-950 kids grades 9-12).

We are also in the process of introducing an industrial tech. contest in which students will be able to submit pieces crafted in woods/metals classes. This is another group of kids who often feel disconnected to school. Every year these kids put out amazing projects with little or no recognition for their effort. We are in the process of working out the details with the head of the Industrial Technology Department. This contest will be separate from the art contest already in place.

For more information about the Red Wing High School Art Contest contact Chad Bray at cjbray@redwing.k12.mn.us

Our 3rd Place Winner - Knights of the Round Table

Submitted by: **Cheri Godek**

Ocoee High School

Ocoee, FL

At Ocoee High School, we do many things to improve the atmosphere of our school. Each month, our Renaissance advisor, Sheila Jackson, sends out an email to the entire staff asking for nominations for the Knights of the Round Table for that month. This is an opportunity for any staff member to nominate students for any reason, whether it be for an improvement in behavior or grades, someone helping out with a special cause, a top notch student, someone who is normally shy and participated in class, etc. Any staff member can nominate students for any reason, with the ultimate goal being to recognize all the students who get nominated. When the staff members send in names of students, they include a short explanation that will appear on the certificate the student will receive, along with the nominating staff member. All students are invited to a home-cooked lunch in the cafeteria. The area of the cafeteria where the Knights of the Round Table will eat is decorated and in plain view of everyone. Students receive the certificate and their names are entered into random drawings for gift cards. There is no final winner - all nominated students are the Knights of the Round Table. We do not compare the accomplishments of the students to determine who is the best, but recognize that each student had done their own personal best and that personal accomplishment is what needs to be celebrated. It is truly amazing what this single nomination, recognition, and celebration can do for a student. It has literally been the turning point in some of our students' high school careers. On average, we have recognized and celebrated 200 students per month.

For more information about the Ocoee High School Renaissance Knights of the Round Table program, contact Cheri Godek cheri.godek@ocps.net

Our 4th Place Winner - Public Display of Affection Thank You Wall

Submitted by **Charlotte Lacey**

William Davies Middle School

Mays Landing, New Jersey

Our "Thank You" wall actually happened by accident at Davies Middle School. Last spring a banner was placed on the wall that simply said "THANK YOU" and it was our intention to list the teachers and staff members who had contributed to our Renaissance support. To our surprise, note cards started appearing under the banner... "thank you's" written to students from students, to teacher from teachers etc.....it was such a success that this year we decided to move the THANK YOU WALL to the foyer of our building, a more visible place than it was last year. It is now one of the first things you see when you walk into the building and it is on a wall that is much longer than the wall we had started on last year. Anyone can write a "Thank You" (teacher, students, administration, staff)....it has become such a touching and effective VTW. It's an idea that can be started at any time- no matter if you are at the elementary, middle school or high school level. Everyone loves to see their name on the wall as well as receive "public affection" and feel appreciated. (The pictures are the wall as of the end of September. Everyday new "thank you's are added).

For more information about the Davies Dragon Renaissance Program or the "Thank You Wall"

please contact Charlotte Lacey at [laceyc@hamiltonschools.org](mailto:lacey@hamiltonschools.org) or Laurann Cacioppo at caciopol@hamiltonschools.org

Congratulations to all our winners!

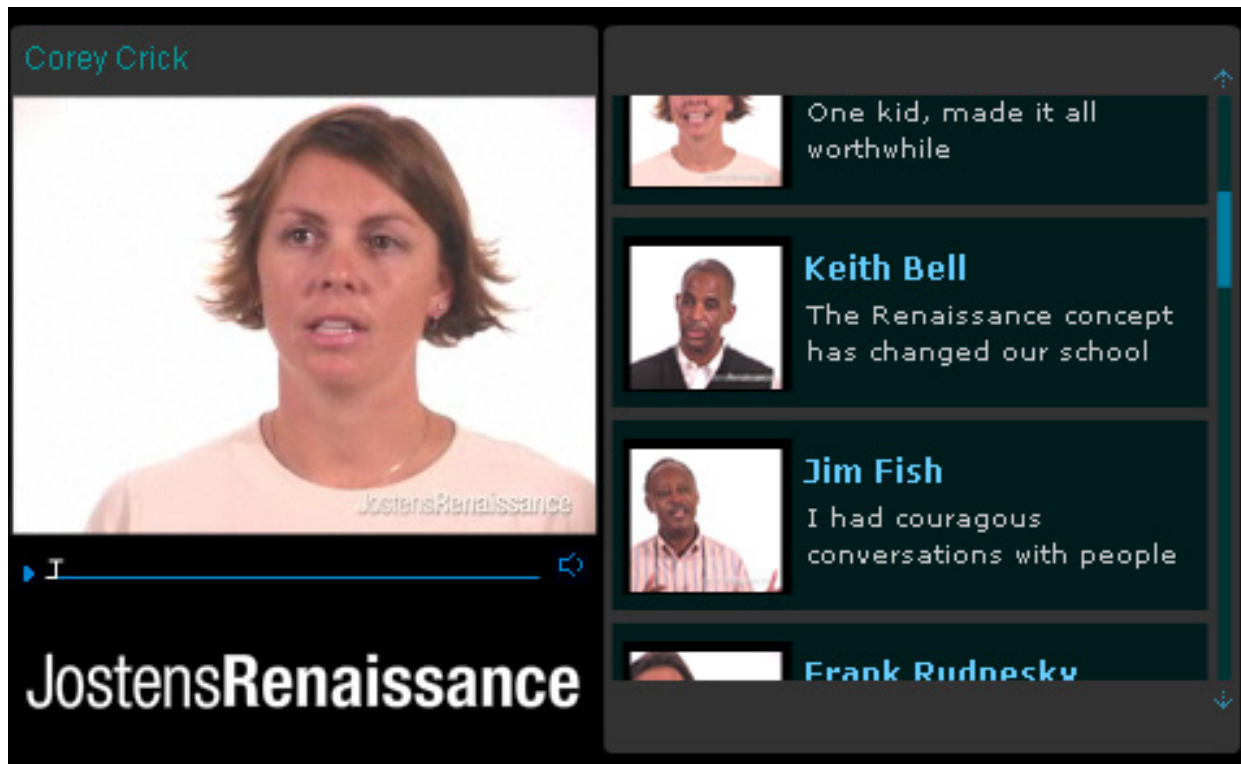
Hot Stories

New Videos on Educator Services Homepage

We have added an exciting new component to our educator services website: videos! These videos speak volumes on the impact and importance of our Renaissance program. Here are the topics:

- **Corey Crick** - One kid made it all worthwhile
- **Keith Bell** - The Renaissance concept has changed our school
- **Jim Fish** - I had courageous conversations with people
- **Frank Rudnesky** - We recognized that parents wanted to be involved
- **Judy Riley** - It's changed our school climate

Visit: www.jostens.com/edserv



The image shows a video player interface. On the left, a video is playing, featuring a woman with short brown hair, identified as Corey Crick. The video player has a progress bar and the text "JostensRenaissance" at the bottom. On the right, there is a vertical list of video thumbnails with their respective titles and descriptions:

- Corey Crick**: One kid, made it all worthwhile
- Keith Bell**: The Renaissance concept has changed our school
- Jim Fish**: I had courageous conversations with people
- Frank Rudnesky**: We recognized that parents wanted to be involved

Program Enrichment

Star Fish Story Available Online and on DVD

As we enter the "dog days" of the school year, the star fish story can prove to be the perfect thing to inspire you until spring. To view the Star Fish Story, just click on this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wuSaNCIde4>

If you'd like to purchase a copy of the Star Fish DVD, email Norma Christenson at norma.christenson@jostens.com. Cost is \$12.



New You Tube Video Posted - "Get Into It!"

To date over 5000 people have viewed the Starfish Story on line. We've had such a great response that we've added another video on You Tube and this one's just for fun while still sending a strong Jostens Renaissance message.

Just click on the link below and take a look at "**Get Into It!**" We know that you'll enjoy it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MITtrQz5Ws&feature=user>



Following Freshmen Blog

A new addition to the Jostens Educator Services website home page is Following Freshmen. Alex, Bailey and Caitin are blogging their freshman year college experience. This is an invaluable resource for high school seniors as it provides insight into what college life is really like. Find out about the academic stresses that college places upon students; how do you meet new friends; what do you do when your roommate literally stinks; what's it like to be away from home? Discover what the freshman experience is like through the eyes of a freshman.

Take a look at the last posting to get an idea of the honest and invaluable information that is at your fingertips on the Following Freshmen Blog:

End of Freshmen Year

The time has already come, to go home. Like I said before, I can't believe it's already that time of year. I was talking to a friend of mine who is a junior I told him how fast this year went by and he said it only seems to go by faster every year. Overall I had an awesome year. I met a lot of great people, had good professors and enjoyed a lot of my classes. I can't believe I'm saying this, but I honestly think I'll miss dorm life too; just being able to walk down the hall and being able to see 20 people you know. Also not having to clean your own bathroom, cooking your own food etc. I'm very excited to get an apartment next year but it's definitely going to be a huge change. This week has been so crazy with finals, compared to last semester. I'm not sure why but I feel way more overwhelmed now. I probably won't sleep for the next two nights because I still have 3 finals and a revision paper due before I leave on Friday and I haven't STARTED packing. Thinking about leaving here is really a bittersweet thought. I obviously can't wait to go home and see my family and be free for the summer, but it's going to be really hard to leave my friends and my life here. I don't think there's anything I would change about the last nine months; I've learned so much.

Events & Reminders

Events

Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events

October, 24, 2009 - Heartland Renaissance Conference - For more information contact Mitch Lefkowitz at lefkowitzmitch@rockwood.k12.mo.us or Terrie Brueckmann at brueckmanterrie@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Reminders

Platinum Program Coupon Books

They're FREE and they are going fast! Bigger and better than ever with more offerings from brand-name companies. Order now: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_500.asp

Educator Services Website

Provides information about Jostens Renaissance. Register and get full access to all the program information. www.jostens.com/edserv

Renaissance Review Archive

Provided to you on our new website: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_400_20.asp

Post Cards -Personalize Recognition for Students

We've made post cards out of the three student related motivational posters. The cards are 5" x 7" are packed individually. Cost is \$.10 per card. To order, email norma.christenson@jostens.com and list the number of cards you'd like and the address to ship them to. We'll put an invoice with the shipment.

National Conference MemoryBook now available on OurHubub.com

Use this Promotion Code: **RENA4RA8** for 15% OFF the price of your memory book!



Black History Commemorative Poster

To order, please e-mail norma.christenson@jostens.com. Include # of posters, your name, school name, address. \$1.00 per poster plus postage. An invoice will be included with your order.



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