



# Dragon Renaissance News

Hamilton Twp Schools

Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2007

## Dragon Renaissance Comes to Davies

In April of last year the Hamilton Township Board of Education approved the Renaissance Program begin on a trial basis at the Davies School. Plans were made for Pep Rallies, dances, school spirit days and student-staff events. Davies hasn't been the same since!

The Renaissance Program sponsored a post testing Pep Rally for each grade level. Students were selected to represent their academic team—Red, White or Blue. Teachers, guidance counselors, child study team personnel and administrators volunteered to compete on teacher teams at each grade level.

Each teacher team competed against three student teams. Events were fun and designed to relieve the post-testing stress that hangs heavily in the Spring air at every school. "Who's your Mummy" had teams wrapping

one member in toilet paper. Scooter races, an egg and spoon relay and pudding eating created much excitement. Points were awarded for each event—with some deductions for teacher teams that bent the rules.

The teachers and students squared off again in an evening Students vs. Staff Basketball game. Mr. Mike Allen coached both the girls' and boys' student teams which were composed of members of the Davies Girls and Boys basketball teams.. The play was intense as teachers and administrators worked hard to score against the agile students. The referees were volunteers from the Upward basketball program so no favoritism could be claimed. The teachers triumphed, but the win was hard fought.

The audience seemed to appreciate the com-

petitive spirit and rooted for their favorites. Half time sported an audience shoe scramble and the awarding of (continued on page 2)



Welcome to Davies! The mascot greets all who enter by the main office.

## What is Renaissance?

Renaissance is a program supported and organized by the Jostens company. Renaissance is designed to place the emphasis on academics and personal growth.

Renaissance wants to make school a good place to be for all students and staff. It seeks to recognize and reward aca-

demics and conduct in the same way that athletics are recognized and rewarded.

Each school is able design the program to fit the needs of the population and community served by that school. Each program is little different in design, but the desired results are the same.

Grades should improve, attendance should improve, the climate should improve.

Jostens says what the school and community respect, recognize, reward and reinforce is what gets results. The efforts of Renaissance need to be visible, tangible and walk-aroundable. Stop in and you'll see that!

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### Dates to Note

- **October 30**
- **Halloween Parade—Look for the Davies Float and Dagger!**
- **November 6**
- **Renaissance Night at Old Country Buffet**
- **A fun-d raising opportunity. Come meet Dagger and support the Dragon Renaissance Program. 5:00-8:00PM**



## Dragon Renaissance Comes to Davies

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Davies staff support Renaissance and show their school spirit by wearing their jerseys.

two pairs of Phillies tickets to two surprised students.

The dances provided lots of fun for students and teachers alike. The first dance had a Hawaiian theme and encouraged students to get their hula on!! Several tickets provided surprised students with special leis. Glow necklaces lit up the cafeteria as Dagger joined the students in dancing the night away.

The fifth grade students from Hess were invited to move up to middle school

with a special welcome dance. The fifth grade teachers attended to say good by to their students and teachers from Davies were there to say "we are glad you are coming!" The anxious fifth grade parents brought excited new sixth grade students who danced, ate and had pictures taken with Dagger.

School spirit was celebrated with special red and white days. The staff purchased Davies Renaissance baseball jerseys to be included in the fun!

The excitement and enthusiasm have carried over to this year. School Spirit Fridays continue and are supplemented with Ugliest Tie Day, Black and Orange Day, Team Jersey days and a variety of other themed days.



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## Staff Of the Month– September 2007

If you have been in the Davies school lately you have, no doubt, noticed several smiling faces in the lobby. The new display is filling up with pictures of our Staff of the Month winners.

In June, the teachers were asked to vote for who each one believed should receive recognition in September. The request was also made to include your reasons. Ms. Stephanie

Sonnak was overwhelmingly voted the September Staff of the Month.

Ms. Sonnak spent many hours hidden in a large, red, furry suit. She volunteered to support the Renaissance program and the school community by becoming Dagger, the Davies Dragon mascot. For 3 Pep rallies, a basketball game, and an assembly at Hess, she sweated the crowds into a frenzy and

kept the excitement levels high.

Ms. Sonnak is an eighth grade language arts teacher. She also trains her fellow teachers in the use of the computer program that records and reports grades.

Ms. Sonnak's commitment to her students, as well as her high energy level and enthusiasm are assets to our school and our district. Congratulations!



Congratulations to the October Staff of the Month!

## Staff of the Month - October 2007

The October staff meeting started out a bit differently. In addition to the teachers, the cafeteria staff was present. They were certain there was a problem and that the news was not going to be good.

After some procedural information was shared, this group got quite a surprise! They were selected to be the October Staff of the Month!

There have been a lot of changes in the lunch program this year—at least from the staff's point of view there have been a lot. Lunches are now served in the Staff lunch room. There is a wonderful salad bar that has a new surprises each day. There are new sandwich choices in addition to the three regular student lunch choices. Teachers no longer need to cut in the students' line and disrupt

the flow for the servers. The extra work that these changes made is certainly appreciated and everyone wanted them to know.

In addition to a celebration cake, each cafeteria staff member received a Davies lanyard, a Davies bracelet and a special Starfish pin to remind them that what they do does make a difference -everyday to each one of us. Congratulations to you all!



## Davies Gets a Renaissance Facelift

Everyone knows that the schools in Hamilton Township are among the finest facilities in the state. Now Davies is also among the most colorful, decorative and school spirited.

Upon entering the lobby near the main office you will be greeted by the Davies mascot in all of its bigger than life glory. Also the frames are hanging on the Staff of the Month wall. Some are filled and some are awaiting their awardees' photos. The hallways are named and labeled according to our Wild about Renaissance theme. You can wander down Alligator Alley en route to the

Flamingo Food Court.

Students' bathrooms have also gotten a facelift. During the summer new stalls were put in the sixth and seventh grade bathrooms. They also were transformed by the Renaissance paint team. The boys' sport school colors with geometrics in red, white, black and gray. The girls wow with bright pink, green, yellow and purple. Next up are the eighth grade bathrooms!

Everyone is excited about these changes and the Renaissance theme. Many classrooms have "wild" door decorations

and bulletin boards. Monkeys are swinging in every hallway!

The newest addition to the décor is window messages. Instead of posting multiple copies of information on countless pieces of paper that will eventually be thrown away, news is now posted on the lower half of office windows, the library windows, and the cafeteria windows. The neon colored messages are hard to miss and easy to clean and change. Important information can be displayed as needed and everyone can know what is happening.



## Orlando Bound!!

Every year Jostens sponsors a national convention for the schools that participate in the Renaissance program. This year 1300+ people made it the first international conference. Japan, Canada and the US Virgin Islands were represented along with all 50 U.S. states. Davies was represented by Mrs. Charlotte Lacey and Mrs. Laurann Cacioppo. The Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, Florida

hosted the 3 day event in grand style. Teachers, administrators, parents and students all found sessions that helped get Renaissance started, keep it going or get it growing. The enthusiasm and professionalism of the presenters and the attendees was overwhelming. Everyone was willing to share their successes as well as their failures

There were many interesting workshop offerings for both teachers and students.

Schools and individuals were recognized and rewarded for their commitment to Renaissance and their involvement in their home school's program. National award winners presented information about their programs. The Davies contingent returned fired up and ready to go!!

The dates and location of the next conference will be announced soon and lots of Davies staff plan to attend.

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## Character Education and Praise

Each month home-room teachers select one student who best exemplifies the Character Education word of the month. These students are recognized during lunch, called up on stage, given a certificate and a green silicone bracelet. As each Vice Principal makes the presentations the winners also receive the congratulations and applause of their classmates.

Students are also

awarded purple silicone bracelets in a lunchtime recognition. These bracelets are awarded when a Praise Referral is written by a staff member. This recognition is to note those students who go above and beyond. They may help a classmate with a difficult assignment, offer kind words when they are needed, share their lunch with a tablemate who forgot his, or help a staff member. The opportunities

are limitless for Praise Referrals. Teachers are encouraged to look for genuine opportunities to write praise referrals.

As the year progresses it will be fun to see the increasing number of students sporting green "CHARACTER COUNTS" bracelets or purple "PRAISEWORTHY" bracelets...or maybe even wearing both!



**Mrs. P. Fleming and sixth grade student Charlotte Hatfield meeting on the first day of school.**



## Hamilton Twp Schools

William Davies Middle School  
1876 Dr. Dennis Foreman Dr.  
Mays Landing , NJ 08330

Phone: 609-476-6242

Fax: 609-476-6250

E-mail: [cacioppol@hamiltonschools.org](mailto:cacioppol@hamiltonschools.org)

### Davies Dragon Renaissance



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.hamiltonschools.org/davies/](http://www.hamiltonschools.org/davies/)**



Think Pink Thursday raised the students' awareness of Breast Cancer Research.



Students and staff wore pink to show their support .



## What is next & what can I do to help?

Now is the time for all of the pieces of Renaissance to begin to come together. We are approaching the end of the first marking period and students will be earning their gold, silver or bronze Renaissance status. Many groups and individuals are planning events for these hard working students.

Each marking period we will hold a special quarterly activity for the Renaissance students, the Character Counts students and the Praise referral recipients. The activities will be held during the school day. Among the possibilities are movies and popcorn, pep rallies, dances, special assemblies and perform-

ances, and a grand finale for those students who have maintained their Renaissance status for all four marking periods.

Later in the school year we hope to identify Renaissance status with silicone bracelets. We also plan to establish the NFL of Davies—The No "F" League.

We are always looking for businesses or individuals to partner with us to support Renaissance and those students who are working hard to improve their academic performance. We want to become their cheerleaders and provide them the same prominence in our school and in the community as our finest athletes. Just as athletes practice to improve

skills and become the best, our students strive to be the best they can be. They work hard every day.

Renaissance programs add to their personal satisfaction with public recognition. If you are able to assist or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Charlotte Lacey ([lacey@hamiltonschools.org](mailto:lacey@hamiltonschools.org)) 476-6242 ext 1049) or Mrs. Laurann Cacioppo ([cacioppol@hamiltonschools.org](mailto:cacioppol@hamiltonschools.org)) 476-6242 ext 1018).

