



# Renaissance School at Olympic Mid-Quarter School News - Letter

October 12, 2006

Volume 1 Issue 4

Olympic High Community of  
Schools

A Coalition of Essential Schools Initiative,  
Funded in Part by the Bill and Melinda  
Gates Foundation

&  
A Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Pioneer in  
Education

## Community Connect !!

- Link your VIC card at Harris Teeter! Our number is 3825!
- Link your Target purchases to #80467!
- Use #70060721 at Office Depot, and help our

## Looking for direction?

### Contact the guidance office!

Veronica.peeler@cms.k12.nc.us

### Join the Parent Information Site! Contact

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/olympichighcommunity/> to hook up with Renaissance!

## Did You Know?

**October 19** is our Grand Opening for Olympic Community of Schools!

**October 27** is Olympic Homecoming. The game starts at 7.

**Starting with this year's ninth graders, all students must pass five different EOC tests in order to graduate from North Carolina High Schools.**

**To date, there has not been a fight in Renaissance School. Our kids are wonderful and safe.**

Advisory/Homeroom at Renaissance is called "Forum." **It has a set curriculum that is made up from all subject areas, and composes 10% of all students' grades.**

Here, students investigate colleges and careers.

*Renaissance students and parents are often invited to conferences across the US.*

**Every student in Renaissance completes a community service learning project each year.**

**Renaissance parents know where their children are, and often check to make certain by calling our office.**

## NOTES FROM PRINCIPAL MELODY SEARS

Greetings! By now, you know that our teachers have been busy creating and delivering lesson plans with varied activities designed to actively engage students in the learning process, with excellent responses from our students. We have already given out our **progress reports on September 21 and 22!** We had our **Academic Open House on September 26.** If you discover that your student is having academic difficulty, schedule a conference, now! **Remember that Forum is a scheduled activity that incorporates skills from all Renaissance curriculum areas, and counts 10% of all grades.** Also remember that there is a **community service based learning component** that goes with Renaissance School, and will be handled through Forum. More information will be coming out, but this should not be news to parents in Renaissance, as we have been working on this since last year in design teams for the school, mentioning it in newsletters, and talking about it in forum with students for quite some time. Seniors will be using their Senior Exit Project to serve as their community projects. **Starting with this year's ninth grade, all students must pass five of their EOC tests as a requirement for graduation.** Parents, please take an active part in your student's success by helping set a regular time and place in the home for student daily study. It is important for you to know what your student has for homework each night. **During the week of October 16-20, your student will have mid-quarter exams. On the 18th, we will give the PSAT to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. All these tests are required.**

On September 13, the Charlotte group, "Gang of One" presented valuable information about youth and organized gang activity to our community's parents. We held a **student and faculty information session assembly** with the same group during school on **October 10.** The presentation for parents was so well received, we are in the process of scheduling the presentation again for a future PTO meeting. At the next **PTO meeting, to be held in our school's media center on October 18 from 6:00-7:30 P.M., there will be a presentation on signs of substance and alcohol abuse in teens. On October 25th, from 6:30-8 P.M., there will be a presentation on Internet Predators and what parents need to know about keeping their children safe.** We plan to hold useful parent information sessions at each PTO session. Please come out and support your children and their teachers. If you need updates on teacher e-mail addresses, calendars for the month's activities, or copies of this letter, you can go to the CMS website and click on high schools to find **The Renaissance Webpage.**

**We are having a Renaissance School t-shirt design contest. All entries should be in by October 31!** Students, see Ms. Vaughan or forum reps for details.

We need seventeen American Flags (please remember the wall mounts, too, if you care to donate) for our classrooms. The NC legislature passed a law over the summer requiring *The Pledge of Allegiance* to be said every day in public schools. If you have questions, please call and I will try to answer them.

Sincerely,

Melody Sears

## The Renaissance School at Olympic



### OLYMPIC HIGH COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS

Renaissance School  
4301 Sandy Porter Road  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
Phone: 980-343-1107

You can change the  
world for the better,  
right now.

#### Renaissance Vision

Empowered students will have a positive impact on global and cultural issues that will allow them to adapt to their ever changing world.

#### *Renaissance School's Defining Language of School Culture*

*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Integrity*

*Decency*

#### Renaissance Mission

Through a collaborative effort of all staff, parents, and students, Renaissance School will encourage students to become responsible citizens by focusing on:

Social Issues  
the Arts and Humanities  
and Cultural Awareness.

#### Some Community Service Ideas

##### That Do Not Cost a Thing

**Start a reading group for small children in your neighborhood. Read children's books to them that you check out of the public library. Ask the specialist, there, about age and subject appropriate books.**

**Begin a suit drive at school for the Battered Women's Shelter, so some women will have interview suits to begin looking for a good job. Have your principal call the shelter for permission from the director.**

**Start a coat drive at your school for men, women, and children in the Homeless Shelter who do not have warm things to wear in winter's cold.**

**Participate in area walks for breast cancer prevention, autism, MS, or any other good cause that has such an organized event in this area.**

**Volunteer to work over Thanksgiving and Winter Break in a Food Kitchen to feed those in need.**

**Get permission to go to a local nursing home and read to the elderly.**

**Just some ideas to get you students thinking!**

#### **Instructional Philosophy We believe that...**

Learning can be transformative when students are at the center,

All members of a learning community should be held to high standards,

Students who know themselves well can impact social and cultural issues now,

Students need critical thinking skills to live well in the 21st century,

Inclusive learning is integral to our mission,

Studying the arts improves self-expression and understanding of the world,

Connecting curricula allows learning to be efficient and effective.