



Special Edition

Jostens Renaissance Review #17

SPECIAL EDITION

May 24, 2007

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2006 - 2007 JRR Idea of the Year Contest winners announced

Grand Prize Idea of the Year – Shifting of the Classes

Congratulations to Ann Schmidt of Conrad Weiser High School in Robesonia, PA., for submitting this year's JRR Idea of the Year. For submitting the winning idea, Ann will receive Rock Star Treatment at the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference including two all round trip airline tickets, limousine transportation to the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa, three nights lodging, and two registrations for the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

The idea:

The Friday before Memorial Day we begin the day honoring the outgoing senior class with a senior breakfast to start the day. Following the breakfast we have an assembly in the morning and we begin the assembly with a speaker or presenter that communicates a positive and motivating message to our students. Once that is finished we begin the Shifting of the Classes. It begins with the staff (all in the same t-shirt provided by CW Renaissance) forming a long chute across the gym. We play the senior class song and ask all other students to stand and allow the seniors to progress out of the gym for the last time to a standing ovation from the staff and student body. They leave and go to a Renaissance function outside where they receive their yearbook, sign notes to thank their teachers and receive any giveaways we might have for them.

Back in the gym we then change the music and then allow the juniors to shift into the senior spot assuming their new rank of seniors, where they rip off the outgoing senior class year and reveal

their graduation class. Again changing the music, it is the sophomores turn to walk across the gym through the staffully chute and assume their new rank as juniors. We change the music again and the freshman then shift into the sophomore spot. Finally, with much pomp and circumstance, the 8th graders will have arrived from the Middle School and fill in the freshman spot in the gym. Once the new classes for the next school year are in their appropriate places we introduce our new club presidents and set expectations for the new school year.

We have found this to be an incredible way to honor our outgoing seniors and make them feel extremely honored on this day. The second positive result from this day is that we set the expectations for the following school year. Our high school administration is very supportive of this idea!

2nd Place Winner – Most Inspirational Teacher

Mike Goynes of Ashley High School in Wilmington, NC submitted this year's JRR runner-up idea of the year. For submitting this idea, Mike will receive one all expense paid trip to the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference including round trip airfare, three nights lodging at the Buena Vista Palace and Spa and registration for the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

The idea:

At Ashley High School, we are in the early stages of our Jostens Renaissance journey. We knew that it was important to say thank you and recognize our teachers, so one of the first programs that we implemented was our "Most Inspirational Teacher" program. Initially, two teachers were selected by students in our Renaissance team as their "Most Inspirational Teachers" and were given a framed poster to hang in their classroom. The back of the poster is autographed by the teacher and the presenting student. Every two weeks the process is repeated as the teachers that were selected will choose two students and those two students will have the opportunity to present the posters to their "Most Inspirational Teacher!" After the posters are presented, the in-school announcements the following day provide details on why these teachers were chosen and what students selected them!

3rd Place Winner – Girls Only!

Chris Brown of Belhaven Middle School in Linwood, NJ, submitted this year's 3rd place JRR idea of the year. For submitting this idea, Chris will receive two free registrations to the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference in Orlando (hotel and airfare are not included).

The idea:

Our school emphasizes the power of all students to realize their potential as leaders through the Jostens-Renaissance process. We noticed that many of our girls, upon reaching 7th grade, began to step back from their roles as leaders. Many middle school girls experience a drop in self-esteem, greater difficulty with schoolwork and problems with relationships. We wanted to find a way to connect the girls back to Renaissance and, more importantly, back to themselves.

The "Girls Only!" series addresses these issues and many more. The three components of Girls Only! are weekly meetings, bimonthly workshops and a final sleepover at the end of the year. Weekly meetings take place in the guidance office with a small group of identified girls. Issues of relational aggression (bullying) and self-esteem are addressed over lunch while girls work on group projects like planning a school dance or creating scrapbooks.

Bimonthly workshops combine serious topics with fun, “girly” activities that allow girls to connect with their classmates. Topics include, “How to Survive 7th Grade,” “Friendship and a Manicure” and “Miss Manners.” All seventh grade girls are invited. These workshops are a great opportunity for girls to interact on a level playing field. They are often surprised by how much they have in common with girls they hadn’t really spoken with before.

The culminating activity is a sleepover in June in the school library. The weekend is filled with workshops, team-building activities and lots of fun. A local makeup artist visits to give the girls tips on “natural beauty,” emphasizing the importance of positive self-esteem. A martial arts expert teaches the girls self-defense moves and allows them to break boards with their hands. On the boards are written barriers they need to break through to be healthy and happy: poor body image, family alcoholism, low self-esteem, etc. The girls also enjoy being served dinner by the staff chaperones – the cafeteria is candlelit and tables are set with real china and linens. Every moment of the weekend is packed with activities all designed to foster positive self-esteem and to reinforce the principles of Renaissance. We even had a “Role Models Reception” the week after the sleepover to share a slide show and conversation with the girls’ mothers or guardians.

Since last year’s sleepover, the girls are achieving more A’s and fewer C’s, hold leadership positions in school clubs, and enthusiastically participate in Renaissance activities. More noticeable are the intangibles: girls that hold their heads high walking down the hallway, or say hello to kids they never would have spoken to. One of the girls said it best, “Even though we may be in different cliques we are a lot alike on the inside.” We’re proud of our girls for believing in themselves enough to break down walls and lead through positive example. Girls Only! has strengthened our school community as well as our Renaissance process.

It’s not too late to register!

Registration information and materials for the 2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference are now available on the Jostens Educator Services web site.* Electronic registrations using a credit card can be made over the internet, or forms can be downloaded and sent with an accompanying check to Jostens to secure your spot at this incredible event! To see the tentative agenda and line-up of speakers, visit: <http://renaissancenational.jostens.com/GeneralInfo.asp>



REGISTER NOW!

<http://renaissancenational.jostens.com/MainPage.asp>

**Hardcopy "Invitations" have been mailed. Check your mailbox! You don't want to miss this conference.*

Reminders

Countdown to the Conference

We don't want you to miss any of the event, so we've posted a countdown on our website. Check it out at <http://www.jostens.com/edserv>. The countdown is located just above the Jostens Renaissance banner on the right side of the page.

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

2007 Spring edition of New Heights - The Official Magazine of Jostens Renaissance

Visit the Educator Services home page and the link for New Heights is on the right of the page, just under the Jostens Renaissance banner. <http://www.jostens.com/edserv/default.asp>

2007 Jostens Renaissance National Conference Theme Unveiled

Visit <http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/images/2007conftheme.pdf> to see the 2007 National Conference theme!

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