



BEHIND EVERY GREAT



**IS AN EXTRAORDINARY
TEACHER**

THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT EVERY DAY.



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Jostens Renaissance Review #7 November 29, 2007

- This issue's winning JRR Idea – **Staff Appreciation Chain Letter**
- It's TIME to become a Rock Star!
- **Cards that deliver a message!**
- Contribute to the Discussion Board, win an i-Pod Shuffle! **Congrats to our 5th winner!**
- **2252 People can't be wrong! View the Star Fish Story online and see what they're talking about.**
- Freshman Blog - **"Getting Ready"**
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This issue's winning JRR Idea – Staff Appreciation Chain Letter

Submitted by **Julie Cook**
Buhach Colony High School
Atwater, CA

Our Renaissance Team decided that we wanted to recognize staff on a regular basis for even the smallest things. But as all Renaissance people know it is easy to come up with ideas, not so easy to find the time and resources to implement them all. So I came up with a staff recognition idea that runs itself: a chain letter. There is a cover page for the letter (text for the cover letter below) and each member of the team wrote a letter to a staff member for something, anything. From there, the letters were placed in mailboxes and the recipients then wrote letters to recognize someone new. Every week new people are recognized and it is more personalized than a note or a treat in a mailbox. The envelope is decorated with school colors and over the top ribbons so everybody can see whose box it is in and who has done something great.

All too often hard work and good deeds go unrecognized. Well, here you are being recognized for something above and beyond your call of duty – for something touching and appreciated.

This year, BCHS Renaissance is focused – Because Caring Helps Schools – on showing you and the students how much they are truly appreciated and cared for.

We know that a happy staff makes for happy students and, in turn, happy students make for a happy staff. We hope that receiving this little note of appreciation makes you happy!

Please do another deserving staff member a favor by taking a few seconds from your terribly busy schedule to jot them a quick note recognizing what they have done to make your life here at BCHS a little happier.

Please add your name to the list of people who have made a difference below and place this sheet and your note to someone new back in the envelope. Place the envelope in the deserving staff member's mailbox and feel good knowing that you have made someone feel appreciated today.

If for some reason you are too terribly busy to pass on the happiness, please return this envelope (without your letter of thanks – you get to keep that) to Julie or Jamie. They will be more than happy to keep the smiles going!

Thanks for all you do!
BCHS Renaissance

For more information about the Buhach Colony High School Renaissance Program or "Staff Appreciation Chain Letter," please contact Julie Cook at jcook@muhsd.k12.ca.us

For submitting this issue's winning idea Julie will receive a Jostens Renaissance hooded sweatshirt and now becomes eligible for the 2008 JRR Idea of the Year grand prize.



Recognition Cards

We've had lots of requests for other ways to use the motivational posters that were produced last year. As a result, we've made cards out of the two teacher related posters. The cards are 5" x 7" and come packaged in packs of 15. This is a perfect way to personalize recognition on your campus whether you're a principal recognizing a member of your faculty or a staff member congratulating one of your peers.

Cost is \$3.75 for a pack of 15 cards and envelopes. To order, email norma.christenson@jostens.com and list the number of packs you'd like and the address to ship them to.

It's TIME to become a Rock Star!

Once again Jostens Renaissance will be running our annual "Idea of the Year" contest. If you submit the winning idea, you'll receive ROCK STAR TREATMENT at the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National.

What's Rock Star treatment?

- Airfare for two to the Jostens Renaissance National Conference
- More information to be revealed in upcoming issues

How to submit your idea

Do you have an idea from your Jostens Renaissance program that has improved your school's environment? Submit your ideas to charley.nelson@jostens.com. We'll select a "winning idea" for each issue and the individual submitting the published idea will receive a Jostens Renaissance Review sweatshirt and be eligible for the 2008 Idea of the Year Contest.

Contribute to the Discussion Board – Win an i-Pod Shuffle!

In an effort to maximize the potential of the Educator Services Discussion Board, we will be holding a drawing every two weeks for an i-Pod Shuffle. All you have to do is make a contribution to the discussion board between now and **Nov. 30th** and you'll be eligible to win a Shuffle.

There are already numerous active discussions, so just post your comment and join in! Better yet, feel free to start a new discussion area. Post a Renaissance question and hear back from some of the greatest educational minds in North America. Ask a question about attendance, discipline, staff morale, anything and **you'll get great responses.**

The Discussion Board can network thousands of educators and provide you with insights from experienced educators. All you have to do is get involved! And hey, you might win a Shuffle

along the way!

To get started, just click on this link - <https://edserv.jostens.com/default.asp>

Congratulations to Tina Dietrich!

Jennifer's name was drawn from all those who made a contribution to the Educator Services Discussion Board over the past two weeks. As a result she is our **5th i-Pod Shuffle winner.**

Star Fish Story Available Online and on DVD

After all of the positive comments and requests for the Star Fish Story that so many of you saw at the Jostens Renaissance National Conference, we used today's medium of choice (You Tube) to make it available for everyone to view.

The Star Fish Story is a great day brightener as you can forward the link to your colleagues within your building as well as other educators you know in your district, state and across the nation.

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.

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:

Getting Ready

I am starting to get very ready for the holidays. Not just because I am craving mash potatoes and pumpkin pie (which I am), but also because I am craving time at home. I have only gone home once, and have seen my parents twice since I moved in, but they were for such short periods that I wouldn't call them restful. When I went home I felt as if I had to see as many people, and go to as many of my favorite places as possible. I can't wait to be home long enough to actually relax. The time my parents came up here was much of the same thing. It was last weekend for Parent's Weekend, so I wanted to show them around

and introduce them to people. Because of that I didn't have much down time with them. I have 4 weeks off for Christmas Break, and I am so excited for that. I am excited for the little things, like sitting on a couch (something I didn't even realize I would miss), talking with my friends for hours, and playing a few, very competitive, games of rummy with my dad. And plus, by that time my first quarter, and first finals, will be over. That is something to look forward to!

Postings are made three times a week. To follow the freshman journey of Alex, Bailey and Caitlin, just go to the Jostens Educator Services home page and click on the Following Freshman link.

<http://www.jostens.com/edserv/default.asp>

2007-2008 Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program coupon booklets – order yours today!

Available FREE to qualifying schools, the Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program coupon booklet contains over 40 coupons redeemable at nationwide retailers. Each coupon booklet contains well over \$300 in value. Also included in the booklet is a wallet-sized Platinum card. The Platinum Program is administered by each participating school's Jostens Renaissance program coordinator. Criteria for ordering the Platinum Program coupon booklet are as follows:

- Must be a Jostens Renaissance School.
- The Platinum Program coupon booklets should be awarded for academic achievement only.
- High schools must purchase one of the following Jostens product lines: rings, yearbooks or announcements. A product order must be placed during current or past school year. Product purchase requirement does not apply to middle or elementary schools.
- While supply lasts, order up to 1,000 coupon books during a 30-day period. Additional orders after that period of time can be requested.
- Online ordering only – link to the site listed below.

The Platinum Program is bigger and better than ever with more offerings from brand-name companies. If you have questions, please call 1-800-624-5534.

To order your Platinum Program coupon booklets, please go to: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_500.asp

Please Note: The coupon booklets are distributed on a first come, first serve basis and they are going FAST, so order yours today!!

Statistic of the Issue – Small Changes

Like virtually every year in history, 2007 has been a year of changes for everyone. Many of those changes are a result of our changing culture. Here are a few that may interest you.

How many personal e-mail addresses adult computer users regularly check:

- 42% - One email address
- 48% - 2 or 3 addresses
- 5% - 4 or 5 addresses
- 5% - 6 or more addresses

Source – Ipsos for Habeas; Sept. 5 – 11 online survey of 2,347 adults

About 57% of drivers have changed their driving behavior due to rising gas prices in the past 12 month. Here are the top changes:

- 91% - Driving less
- 75% - Maintaining vehicles better
- 31% - Carpooling more
- 30% - Purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicle
- 24% - Using public transportation

Source – AAIA survey of 500 drivers who are responsible for purchasing fuel and maintaining/repairing the vehicles they drive.

Reminders

Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events

Dec. 7th, 2007 – 7th Annual PennJersey Training Workshop – Highland Regional High School, Erial, NJ. For more information, contact Pete Sabatino at Pete.Sabatino@jostens.com or Frank Palatucci at fpalatucci@bhprsd.org.

Upcoming Jostens LeaderShop workshops

Jan. 15, 2008 – Grand Rapids, MN – Matt Wewel at matt.wewel@jostens.com

Feb. 5, 2008 – Dallas, TX – Lisa Spain at lisa.spain@jostens.com

Feb. 6, 2008 – Houston, TX – Lisa Spain at lisa.spain@jostens.com

Feb. 7, 2008 – Boise, ID – Les Curvey at les.curvey@jostens.com

Feb. 11, 2008 – Crossville, TN – Beth Mahaffey at beth.mahaffey@jostens.com

Feb. 13, 2008 – Fresno, CA – Rob DeGeorge at rob.degeorge@jostens.com

Feb. 19, 2008 – Ashville, NC – Gene Holdway at gene.holdway@jostens.com

March 3, 2008 – Tucson, AZ – Rob DeGeorge at rob.degeorge@jostens.com

March 10, 2008 – Virginia Beach, VA – Larry DeSantos at larry.desantos@jostens.com

March 19, 2008 – Saddlebrook, NJ – Pete Sabatino at pete.sabatina@jostens.com

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

National Conference MemoryBook now available on OurHubub.com

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[Download the issue as a PDF](#)