



Jostens Renaissance Review #8 December 13, 2007

- **Congratulations: Larry Biddle; Westerville South High School; Foothill Technology High School**
- This issue's winning JRR Idea – **From the Bottom Up!**
- It's TIME to become a Rock Star!
- Recognition Cards that deliver a message!
- Contribute to the Discussion Board, win an i-Pod Shuffle! **Congrats to our 6th winner!**
- A Great Holiday Message! The Starfish Story
- Freshman Blog - "***Finals Week***"
- 2007-2008 Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program coupon booklets – order yours today!
- Statistic of the Issue – **Top-tier colleges ease burden**
- Reminders:
 - Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events
 - Platinum Program Books
 - Educator Services Website
 - Renaissance Review Archive



Congratulations Larry Biddle!

Jostens Renaissance would like to extend its most sincere congratulations to Mr. Larry Biddle who will be receiving an honorary Doctorate of Public Service on Saturday, Dec. 15th from Coastal Carolina University. Congratulations Larry. No one is more deserving!

Congratulations also go to Westerville South High School (Mr. Keith Bell, principal) and Foothill Technology High School (Jennifer Duston, Asst. Principal). Both schools have great Jostens Renaissance programs, but more importantly, both schools have just been selected as one of the top 500 high schools in the United States by US News and World Report. Way to go Keith and Jennifer.

This issue's winning JRR Idea – From the Bottom Up!

Submitted by **Annie Schmidt**
Conrad Weiser High School
Robesonia, PA

The Bottom four GPAs/ highest absentees/ disciplinary problems in each grade receive a Dream/ Believe/Achieve/Remember bracelet and a personalized note of encouragement from the CW Renaissance Committee with their class schedule on the first day of school.

This year, instead of just the bottom four individuals in each area we included anyone that our building principal identified as having poor grades, high absentees, or disciplinary actions. It came to about 45 students out of a total student population of about 1100.

We are on a semester schedule with three marking periods per semester. At the end of the first marking period we followed up to see how each of these students performed in the first six weeks. Those who showed improvement got a note and a gift certificate to our concession stand.

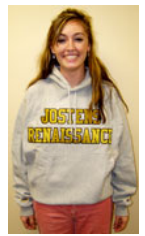
Out of 11 students with poor grades – 4 had no F's and 8 showed improvement

Out of 12 students with discipline problems – 5 had no suspensions

Out of 10 students with attendance problems 6 missed less than 5 days

Obviously these students are our at-risk students. Our teacher who is running this program has gotten a great deal of positive feedback from the students or teachers who see a difference. For more information about the Conrad Weiser High School Renaissance Program or "From the Bottom Up," please contact Annie Schmidt at a_schmidt@conradweiser.org

For submitting this issue's winning idea Annie 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 post cards out of the three student related posters. The cards are 5" x 7" are packed individually. This is the perfect way to personalize recognition for students on your campus. Teachers can write a congratulatory note to a student and hand it to the student individually, or draw a line down the center of the back of the card, writing on ½ of the card, putting an address and stamp on the other ½ and mailing it home to the parents of the students.

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.

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 Conference.

What's Rock Star treatment?

- Airfare for two to the Jostens Renaissance National Conference
- Limousine transportation from the airport to the host hotel
- 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 **Jan. 10th** 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 **Ellen Eveland!**

Ellen'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 **6th i-Pod Shuffle winner.**

Star Fish Story Available Online and on DVD

As every teacher knows, the days between now and the holiday break become even more challenging than normal as students become increasingly excited about the upcoming break.

This background presents the perfect opportunity to send your colleagues and friends an inspirational message to help them through these challenging days. Simply copy the Star Fish Story link below and email it to someone who can use a lift. After all, over 2500 viewers can't be wrong!

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:

Finals Week

This last weekend and continuing to this week has been by far the most stressful time since I've been at school. Preparing for finals is so difficult just because you don't know exactly what is going to be on your tests. I hung out with my friends last Thursday night but stayed in the rest of the weekend which was a great decision. My roommate went out a couple nights this weekend and still hasn't really studied at all and now she is freaking out because she doesn't have time to review all the material that she needs. I took my French final yesterday and in the middle of it, started tearing up. I studied for probably 12 hours this weekend for it and it was so difficult. Then of course when I got out I called my mom and cried. (That's just me; I'm kind of a baby like that :) I had my English final this morning which was two papers and a presentation and I think my papers are great but my presentation was a little shorter than she wanted. I have math tomorrow which is probably going to be the hardest of them all and I'm going to study with my friend all tonight starting probably at three. The only one after that is Psychology which is on Friday and even though I got a D on that one test, I think I can pull through on the final. Then I get to go home for a month!!

My best advice for finals week is to not go out the weekend before, drink a Red Bull if you need to and just study as long as you can.

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 – Top-tier Colleges ease burden*

Responding to increasing criticism about college costs spiraling out of control, some top-tier colleges have developed formulas to reduce the loan burdens on families and some colleges have even gone so far as to remove loans from financial aid packages.

With that being said, below are tuition totals for some of the top-tier American colleges and universities.

- Columbia University - \$47,147
- University of Chicago - \$47,007
- University of Pennsylvania - \$46,124
- Brown University - \$45,948
- Stanford University - \$45,878
- Harvard University - \$45,620

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology - \$45,386
- Duke University - \$45,286
- Yale University - \$45,000
- Emory University - \$45,556

*Source – USA Today, 12-11-07

Reminders

Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events

Jan. 14, 2008 - Gems For Advisors, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Diamond Bar, CA. For more information, contact Richard Parkhouse at richard.parkhouse@jostens.com or Mike Westra at mike.westra@jostens.com.updates.

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

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