YOUR IDEAS
• This issue's winning JRR idea - "Motivate Yourself, Inspire Others"

CONFERENCE INFORMATION
• Information about the Jostens Renaissance National Conference will be available in February

HOT STORIES
• Spam Contest at Logan Middle School
• Tell us how Jostens Renaissance has impacted you personally and/or your school
• Following Freshman Blog
• You Could Receive an iPod
• Great Holiday Gift Ideas

PROGRAM ENRICHMENT
• Order a Jostens Renaissance Banner for your School
• Still a Great Message! The Starfish Story
• Order your Platinum Coupon Books

EVENTS & REMINDERS
• Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events
• Educator Services Website
• Renaissance Review Archive
• Post Cards - Personalize Recognition for Students
• New Black History Poster available!
• Starfish Story Link
• Platinum Program Coupon Books available
This Issues Winning JRR Idea - "Motivate Yourself, Inspire Others"

Every month we select students from each grade level that exemplify our monthly character trait; responsibility, compassion, friendship, etc. We are always striving to find ways to honor these students for their achievement. One day while sorting through my junk mail I became inspired! There it was, a catalog for motivational posters. Thinking about our students, I came up with the idea to create our own motivational posters starring our Students of the Month. By displaying our own students in these posters it not only honors the ones who are doing the right thing but it also connects all students to the character trait by showing familiar faces as the models...role models.

This project was a team effort with teachers helping to design the template and students contributing a photo idea. We took the final copies of the posters to a local office supply store to have them blown up. They are now proudly displayed in our halls for all to see.

Ask any student who received the Student of the Month award for compassion last year and they will know. After doing a double take, parents and community members rave about the posters! These posters have connected student to student, and our school to the community.

Submitted by Cindy O'Kane, Belhaven Middle School in Belhaven, NewJersey  For more information contact Cindy at cindyokane@linwoodschools.org.

For submitting this idea, Cindy will receive a Jostens Renaissance hoodie and is now eligible to receive an all expense paid trip for two to the 2010 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

How to submit your idea - Do you have an idea from your Jostens Renaissance program that has improved your school's environment and provided recognition for a deserving group of students or staff? 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 sweatshirt and become eligible for the 2010 Idea of the Year contest. Submit your ideas early - and often! Submit as many as you'd like. We look forward to receiving them.
Conference Information

Conference Information will be available in February

Hot Stories

Check out "Spam Day" at Logan Middle School in La Crosse, Wisconsin  http://www.rschooltoday.com/school290/images/files/spam_article.pdf

Biggest Ham out of a Can" Fundraiser
Logan Middle School's Renaissance organization recently raised a little over $200 in five school days by putting seven staff members in the running to be crowned the "Biggest Ham". The best part of the fundraiser is that it really cost no more than the price of a pair of red tights!

The Renaissance organization sent out an email to all staff in search of a fun costume. Someone happened to have an adult-sized SPAM costume...perfect! The group then selected staff representatives to be a part of the ballot. Don't forget to include someone from each grade level in your building, staff who has contact with all students, such as your physical education teacher, as well as administration.

Photos were taken of each nominee's heads, were superimposed on a SPAM doll and were then posted throughout the building-as well as on our school website. Announcements with interesting facts about SPAM began a few days before explaining the rules of the contest. SPAM songs, yes they're out there, were downloaded and played throughout the building. The rules of the contest were explained:

Logan Middle School staff and students...beginning next week you will have the opportunity to vote and crown the biggest "ham" at Logan Middle. The staff member with the most votes, or in this case money collected, will come to school on Tuesday, October 27th wearing a SPAM costume.

Here's how it works:

All next week (October 19-23) there will be someone in the lunchroom collecting your votes. Place your money in the container of the person you would most like to see dressed up. The person who raises the most money by the end of the week will be crowned the "Biggest Ham...Out of a Can."

You might be wondering who the contestants are? OK...close your eyes and get ready to picture one of the following as a can of SPAM: (insert staff names)

So students and staff...gather your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and money that folds and help us to raise money for Renaissance, the group that works all year to recognize and celebrate students and staff!
Ice cream buckets with the staff SPAM photos were placed on a cart and paraded throughout each lunch period. The costume was taken to each classroom in order for the students to see what it looked like. As you can imagine alliances were formed to protect one's interest as well as to ensure the “victory” of others.

At the end of the voting period a press release was sent out to the local media in order to announce that the principal, Dr. Harcey, was the winner! On the day he wore the costume, red-tights and all, we decided it would be fun to cook up some donated SPAM and serve it to the students during all three lunches...22 cans of SPAM, 2 television interviews and a newspaper reporters visit later, he was able to get out of the costume. (After the story aired locally and his picture was in the newspaper, we discovered it was picked up and shown across the state on a Milwaukee station. The principal has also received feedback from those who heard about it in the Minneapolis...great news travels fast!)

This was a no fuss fundraiser that was a ton of fun, little work with a big positive school culture payoff! Can't wait to see what next year's costume will be! If you would like further information about this fundraiser feel free to contact Lisa Schreiner at lschrein@lacrosseschools.org.

Tell Us How Jostens Renaissance Has Made a Difference...
Tell us how Jostens Renaissance has impacted you personally and/or your school. We would like to hear from you so that we may share your story about how Jostens Renaissance has made a difference in your life and in the life of your school. Just write a letter telling about the difference the program has made and email your letter to norma.christenson@jostens.com We hope to hear from you!

If your Jostens Renaissance program has been in the news or if you have something you would like to share with other schools, please email the link to norma.christenson@jostens.com so that your story may be shared in a future Renaissance Review.

Follow the College Freshman Blog
Follow the college freshman blog at http://followingfreshman.blogspot.com to see how they are adjusting to college life.

From Anne
Well, tonight I am blogging because I need a serious study break. I have been working so hard for my finals (which are tomorrow and Monday) all day today. I can't believe that the term is over. It all flew by so quickly! I'm looking forward to the 6 week break where I will be able to concentrate on swimming and having fun! No school work, no library job--the thought of that is heavenly! However, I'm close, but not that close. I still have 2 finals blocking my path toward my personal "nirvana". Last week I was sick, and I did not do so well on my two tests in art history and calculus. This weekend will give me a chance to redeem my grades for those classes. The pressure is most definitely on! It's hard to concentrate even though everyone else has finals, too. I keep thinking about winter break and how I'm so close to the finish line, yet I'm still so far. Wish me luck on my tests, and I'll see you in 2010 when school resumes for winter term!
From Josh
Thanksgiving is this Thursday and I could not be any happier to go home and see all of my family and friends. UC has been good to me, but I think it is time to reconnect with the city that I know best in Gahanna, Ohio. Finals are approaching rather quickly and actually I am looking forward to getting them done. It might mean that I have to do some extra studying over Thanksgiving, but it all pays off in the end when you get the grades that you deserved for all your hard work. I believe that my English final will be my easiest because of how well I am doing in that class. Don't get me wrong, I am doing well in all my classes its just English stands out the most.

You could receive an iPod by Contributing to the Jostens Educator Services Discussion Board!
Congratulations to Daniel Stanford for being our 3rd iPod winner this year. You could be our next winner! To be eligible to receive an iPod just make a contribution to the Jostens Educator Services Discussion Board between today and December 17th. One name will be randomly drawn from those who have contributed to the Discussion Board during the previous two week period and that lucky individual will win an iPod Shuffle. Go to the Jostens Educator Services Website and contribute to the Discussion Board and you may be our next winner! http://www.jostens.com/edserv/default.asp

The Holidays are fast approaching and Jostens Renaissance has some great ideas to help!
As you head to the mall for your holiday shopping, The Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program Coupon Booklet can help save you some cash. This Platinum Program Coupon Booklet has over 40 different coupons providing discounts to national retailers like Aeropostale, New York & Company, deb, Fashion Bug, Brookstone, Target, Borders, Dicks Sporting Goods as well as discounts for food and entertainment. The combined value of all the coupons in the book is over $350. The Platinum Program Coupon booklets are free of charge. Simply send an email with your school address and the number of coupon booklets you'd like to norma.christenson@jostens.com and we'll get them shipped to you and make that holiday shopping experience a little easier on your wallet.

As we approach the holidays, consider the message that you want to send to staff members and students as the depart school for the break. Send them off with an upbeat, inspirational message. Jostens Renaissance has two great DVDs that can send that powerful message of inspiration.

We Believe In You. With Kenny Loggins' If You Believe providing the musical and lyrical background, his short film is inspirational, motivational, topical and powerful! This film is perfect for a faculty meeting, a committee meeting or being shown to the entire student body. It will entertain and inspire!

Work To Do incorporates a powerful message for change. Set to the 70s funk beat of AWB, Work To Do sends a message of the impact one individual can make on the world. In order to make the world a better place, we've all got "work to do."

Both videos send strong messages and are certain to set a positive tone whenever they are used. Buy one DVD for $15 or both for $25. Simply contact Norma at norma.christenson@jostens.com. Specify which DVD (or both) that you'd like and we'll send them to you. An invoice will be mailed with your copy DVD(s).

Jostens Renaissance T-shirts Available - LAST CHANCE - LIMITED SUPPLY
Jostens Renaissance has a limited amount of the Black History, Celebrating Women, Boy Teacher and Girl Teacher T-shirts available for $15 each. Sizes are limited and orders will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like to order please contact norma.christenson@jostens.com. An invoice will be enclosed with your order and shipping costs will be included.
Order an official Jostens Renaissance Banner for your School
Now you can order an official Jostens Renaissance banner for your school. All you do is select the template of your choice, provide 2 school colors and your school name. The banner is perfect to display in your school entrance, auditorium, hallways or gymnasium and lets everyone who enters your school know that your school has a Jostens Renaissance program! View banner and print order form.

You can either mail or fax your order to Neff Company or email mmcmiller@neffco.com if you have questions.

Base Cost is $135.00

The Star Fish Story DVD Available
The Star Fish story is a powerful message for faculty and staff reminding them of the important role they play in their school each day. Every member of the faculty and staff can make a difference in every life that they touch. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wuSaNCide4](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.

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[View Details](#)

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### Events & Reminders

#### Events

**Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events**

**December 4, 2009** - PennJersey Jostens Renaissance Training Session - The training session will be held at Highland Regional High School, Blackwood, New Jersey. For more information contact Pete Sabatino at peter.sabatino@jostens.com or Frank Palatucci at fpalatucci@bhprsd.org

**March 19, 2010** - PennJersey Jostens Renaissance Spring Conference. The conference will be held at Davies Middle School in Mays Landing, New Jersey. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Frank Palatucci at fpalatucci@bhprsd.org.

**July 16-18, 2010** - Jostens Renaissance National Conference. The conference will be held at Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa in Orlando, Florida. For more information about the hotel go to [www.buenavistapalace.com](http://www.buenavistapalace.com)

**Upcoming 2010 Jostens LeaderShops**

*TBD*

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**Reminders**

**Educator Services Website**

Provides information about Jostens Renaissance. Register and get full access to all the program information. [www.jostens.com/edserv](http://www.jostens.com/edserv)
Renaissance Review Archive
Provided to you on our website: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_400_20.asp

Post Cards - Personalize Recognition for Students
We've made post cards out of the three student related motivational posters. The cards are 5" x 7" and are packed individually. 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.

Black History Commemorative Poster
To order, please e-mail norma.christenson@jostens.com. Include quantity of posters, your name, school name, address. $1.00 per poster plus postage. An invoice will be included with your order.

Starfish Story Link
Send a powerful message to the faculty and staff of the important role they play each day. Every member of the faculty and staff can make a difference in every life that they touch. 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.

Platinum Program Coupon Books
The 2009 - 2010 Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program Coupon booklet is bigger and better than ever! You can order yours now by clicking on this link - http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_500.asp