

The Lotus Lowdown

April 14, 2023



Maria Francisco, Principal

Congratulations to 6th grade student, Rose Wiseman Winner of the Anderson Story Contest

I am thrilled to share with you that Rose Wiseman, 6th grade student at Renaissance, is the winner of the Anderson Park Short Story Contest. The Anderson Park Short Story Contest was available to ALL Montclair students in grades 6-8. Students were encouraged to write a story of any genre, as long as it included Anderson Park.

Rose demonstrated exceptional writing skills and creativity in her entry. Rose was awarded \$100 as the winner. We are proud to celebrate her achievement and encourage her to continue exploring her writing talents. I also want to acknowledge Ms. Jordan, Rose's ELA teacher for her work and dedication in working with Rose on her writing piece.

**ANDERSON PARK
SHORT-STORY CONTEST**

**Students in Grades 6 to 8
at Schools in Montclair**
Unleash your creativity and write a story of any genre, as long as it includes Anderson Park.

Winners Receive \$100
Entry deadline is March 8, 2023.

To Enter Visit:
FriendsOfAndersonPark.com/story-contest

**Sponsored by
Friends of Anderson Park**

Disclaimer: The advertised event is not a school-sponsored function or an endorsement by the school district.



NY Red Bulls Game Family Night

Hola and Bonjour everyone!

We have some great news about the New York Red Bulls home game this **Saturday, April 15th 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** We have had our section upgraded for a more personalized experience! We will be in **section 114** and all purchased tickets have been upgraded to the new section. We would love to see as many of you as possible at the game this weekend to meet the incoming Spanish exchange students coming from Granada. The more the merrier! Tickets are **\$27**, and they can be purchased at the link below.

<https://fevo.me/montclairrenaissance23>

Students **must** be accompanied by a chaperone to attend the event. All students and chaperones in attendance **must** purchase a ticket. Please note that this is **not** a Renaissance school function. All transportation and supervision will be the responsibility of parents and guardians. We will meet in our section **10 minutes** before the game starts. We hope to see you there!



Mademoiselle Austin 🇫🇷

Señor Anagnostis 🇪🇸

Last Week for Weston Award Nominations (MFEE)

It's the last week for Weston Award nominations! The deadline is Sunday 4/16 at midnight.

Currently, Renaissance has 5 teachers nominated (some teachers may have been nominated more than once). Knowing how many emails I miss - and that it was just spring break - I was hoping you could reach out one last time to get parents and students to nominate - via email, social media, any way you can! Here is a sample paragraph you could use.

Only a few more days to nominate a teacher for [the Judy Weston Awards for Inspired Teaching!](#)

This spring, sixteen teachers from throughout Montclair Public Schools will be selected to receive individual cash awards of \$2,000, including one award designated specifically for a teacher at Renaissance. Recipients will be selected based on personal stories and nominations from parents/guardians and students illustrating how a teacher is creative, talented, supportive, and inspiring. Nominations will be accepted until Sunday, April 16th:

<https://www.mfee.org/weston-awards>.

Health Office: (Nurse Kaplan):

Medical Forms - 8th grade to Washington and 7th grade to Philadelphia.

THANK YOU for sending the forms. If you have not sent it in your forms, please do so by next Friday. We will set a date to collect the medication in May for those students who will need medication on the field trip.

ImPACT Testing for 8th grade students – On Monday April 17, students will receive instructions about playing sports in the high school. Parents will receive the sports forms and information about the impact testing. The **Playing it safe Concussion Test** will be conducted at Renaissance school on **May 18 and 19, 2023 at 09:00 a.m.** Any questions, please contact Nurse Kaplan @ ikaplan@montclair.k12.nj.us

List of Sports

[FALL SPORTS.docx](#)

Spring is here

Allergy season is in full bloom. If your child needs allergy medications, please administer them at home daily. The health Office is not approved to administer these at school.



Hot SUN

Water, Water and Water – Please remind students to bring a water bottle. They can refill it at school. They walk to Woodman Field during physical education class.

Sunscreen lotion is also important. Please consider putting it in student backpacks. This will allow students to apply it when going outdoors for recess, physical education, and on field trips.

Dress Code:

We are requesting assistance from our parents with ensuring that our students understand and follow the Montclair Public School District Dress Code. We ask that you review the dress code with your students. I have attached it here for your reference. [Student Planner/Agenda](#)

April 25, 2023: Renaissance's 2nd UNPLUGGED Day

As previously stated, one of the main benefits of unplugging from technology is that it allows students to connect more deeply with themselves and their surroundings. Without the constant distractions and stimulation from devices, students can focus on their thoughts and feelings, and engage more fully with the world around them. This can help reduce stress and anxiety, and improve their mental and emotional health.

World Language Update: (Mr. Anagnostis and Ms. Austin)

Grand Concours / National Spanish Exam

Over the last few months, the 7th and 8th grade French and Spanish students have been preparing for the Grand Concours and the National Spanish Exam. The test consisted of 2 sections: listening and reading, and grammar and vocabulary. Students were highly motivated, and their hard work paid off! The official scores will be released shortly.

International visitors from Granada

Next week 8 students as well as 2 teachers will be visiting us from Granada, Spain. Next Wednesday April 19th, we will be hosting our first international spelling bee. The 10 winners from our spelling bee that was held in December will face-off in a friendly competition against the exchange students.

Virtual Exchange

Friday, April 14th, students in 8th grade had their first virtual exchange with students in Huelva, Spain. Students spoke in Spanish for 20 mins and English for 20 mins with their counterparts. Each week now through June, students will speak about a new theme to increase their fluency.

6th Grade:

Our 6th grade students spent the day at the Museum of Natural History in NY.

The Museum of Natural History in NY is an incredible place to explore and learn about the world around us. With its extensive collection of exhibits and artifacts, there is something for everyone to discover and appreciate. Visiting museums like this can also help students develop a greater understanding and appreciation for science, history, and culture.

[Photos Museum of Natural History, NY](#)

6th Environmental Science: (Ms. Babu) Students are learning about how to take observations as we go on our nature walks around our community. How do we explore the biotic and abiotic factors right in our neighborhood? Passion projects based on students' personal interests are ongoing.

7th Grade:

The seventh grade had a terrific time visiting historical sites throughout downtown Manhattan, highlighted by lunch outdoors.



8th Grade:

High School Scheduling Appointments 4/20/23

Just a friendly reminder that the High School scheduling team will be here next Thursday, 4/20 to meet individually with 8th grade students to create their schedules for next year. This is a follow up to the assembly that was presented by Ms. Kinney and Ms. Gilbert from the HS on 3/30 where students were given elective forms to review and complete with parents.

Please remind your students that they need to complete these forms prior to next Thursday and bring them in on Thursday, 4/20. If students need extra copies, please have

them see Ms. Fossella. Any questions about high school scheduling can be directed to Ms. Fossella as well. lfossella@montclair.k12.nj.us

Washington D.C. forms - Please sign and return all forms as soon as possible.

Payment plan schedule:

4/14 - \$100

Math

We are in the middle of a unit on Quadratic Functions which is the last major topic before the NJSLA which is the week of May 1. The Math portion is Wednesday and Thursday the 3rd and 4th.

Science:

8th Grade Science: We are working on our mini-unit on Macromolecules as we finish up our Cell Biology unit. Students are also preparing for the NJSLA as we practice test-taking questions. Coming up for MP4 is our unit on genetics and evolutionary biology!

8th Human Biology: Expert Group Presentations and Board exams begin next week for the remainder of April. Students will be soon getting ready for their patient case studies.

ELA

Students are presenting the Women's History Month projects starting today and continuing throughout next week!

Social Studies

This week and for the rest of the school year, the 8th-grade curriculum will focus on Civics. We will be studying the formation of the United States government, its founding principles, and the separation of powers.

Important Upcoming Dates:

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| ● April 21, 2023 | Eid al-Fitr, School Closed |
| ● April 25, 2023 | UNPLUGGED DAY |
| ● April 27, 2023 | Curriculum Thursday: 1:25 pm Dismissal |