

BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNER NEWS

January 2010

Highlighting programs and accomplishments of Boston Renaissance Community.

Boston Renaissance Posts Highest MCAS Scores Ever

2009 MCAS results show Boston Renaissance Charter Public School posting the highest scores in its 14 year history. These gains are even more impressive considering that 54 percent of schools statewide failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind federal law.

Among Renaissance's major milestones:

- * Met and surpassed AYP both in the aggregate and for every demographic subgroup for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.
- * Renaissance's low income African American and Hispanic students outperformed their peers across the state in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math - often by wide margins.
- * Renaissance's 3rd grade MCAS results beat the state averages in ELA and Math.
- * Renaissance's 5th grade MCAS results beat state averages in Math.

Additionally, many Renaissance students are moving on to some of the elite middle schools in the area. Approximately 40% of last year's sixth grade graduates were accepted into Boston's elite exam schools (Latin, Latin Academy, and John D. O'Bryant) – one of the highest rates in the city. Renaissance graduates have also been offered scholarships to elite private schools.

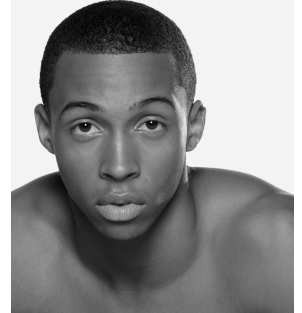
Renaissance's success is the result of a team effort by students, staff, families and partners. Thank you all so much for your support!

Alumni Profile: Levi Marsman

Attended :
Grades 3-8

Graduated :
2001

Secondary School:
Boston Arts Academy,
Walnut Hill School



College:

Currently in the Alvin Ailey School/
Fordham University B.F.A. Program

Successes:

Currently On Tour with Alvin Ailey II
AileyCamp Boston Dance Instructor
Recipient for the 2007 Young Professionals Award of the Martha Hill Dance Fund
Silver medalist in the 4th Seoul International Dance competition

Renaissance Impact:

Renaissance was a tremendous influence on Levi's dance and educational career. He was introduced to dance through the schools' partnerships with Celebrity Series and AileyCamp. He was a member of the Voices of Renaissance choir. With choir director Ms. Lee-Jones, he learned about discipline, practice, artistry and the true power of the arts and its necessity in our world and education system. Discipline, timeliness and the act of giving back to the community are all values he learned at Renaissance and still uses today. Levi credits his Renaissance teachers, including Ms. Dibinga and Ms. d'Ablemont Burnes who are still involved in his life, with supporting and encouraging his interests in school and beyond. The Renaissance community supported Levi, as he says, "helping me along my way while growing up."

Happy New Year

RENAISSANCE STUDENTS USHER IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT

Happy New Year and congratulations to **First Night Boston** for a fantastic New Year's Eve celebration. Renaissance students worked after school through the month of December with artists from the **Puppeteers Cooperative**. They created giant Phoenix puppets for the Grand Procession down Boylston Street to the Boston Common. This year's parade theme was Earth, Air, Fire Water and the Phoenix puppets were fantastic.

HELP FUND CLASSROOMS IN NEED

Each year, teachers spend much of their own money to bring special materials and projects to their classrooms. Through a fantastic website, **donorschoose.org**, Renaissance teachers have received funding from companies and individuals for projects including:

- * An audio book listening center
- * A magical classroom reading space with bean bag chairs
- * Books for classroom libraries
- * Board games that develop critical thinking and math skills

Fund a Renaissance classroom project through **donorschoose.org**. It's a fantastic way to support Renaissance students. Find our proposals at www.bostonrenaissance.org—click Just Give then Donors Choose.

Breaking Ground on a New School

Construction is on schedule for Renaissance's move in September 2010 to a new state-of-the-art campus in Hyde Park.

With this move, Renaissance will:

- * Be an environmentally approved "green school"
- * Gain instruction time by minimizing transitions
- * Integrate state of the art technology to support core curriculum and instruction
- * Develop media literacy skills in a 21st century library and media center
- * Celebrate the arts in a modern theatre and studios
- * Increase indoor and outdoor physical education opportunities
- * Provide playgrounds and gardens as outdoor classrooms for recreational learning
- * Prepare healthy meals in modern kitchen facilities
- * Create a full-service on-site health center to expand medical, vision, dental and mental health services
- * Increase parent involvement by providing a dedicated resource center
- * Increase accessibility for staff, parents and partners by providing designated parking

Our new campus will not only provide a modern educational facility for our students, but will also take a blighted old mill and turn it into a catalyst for the revitalization of the immediate neighborhood. The school community is very excited.



City Year: I Serve at the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

A team of 10 City Year Corps members has taken up residence at Renaissance! The first in what is expected to be an on-going partnership, the 2009-2010 school year is being enriched by the dedication and commitment of these 10 individuals who are high school and college graduates ranging in age from 19-23. As City Year Corps members, they have given a year of service and we are grateful to have them supporting our students!

The City Year / Renaissance partnership is part of City Year's Whole School, Whole Child model, improving the conditions supporting student success. Corps members are at Renaissance 4 days per week from 7:35am to 5:30pm. They accomplish much in that time:

- * Creation and implementation of the Starfish After-School program—a 4 day per week program that supports homework and theme based activities
- * Classroom support—assisting, mentoring and tutoring
- * Math and Reading Intervention for struggling students
- * Lunch Buddies—small group character development
- * Positive School Climate Events—expressing appreciation and celebrating successes of students and teachers



Photo: Elliott Haney, Corps Member

Elementary School Principal, Lateefah Robinson, believes the City Year team has had a great impact on students. The team has enabled Renaissance to expand the intervention program and provide extra support for student learning.

Renaissance is grateful for this new partnership. We thank our corps members and the City Year staff involved in our start up and on-going success for their insight and commitment.



Photo: Elliott Haney, Corps Member

BECOME A PARTNER

It takes a village to raise a child and Boston Renaissance depends on the community for support. To make a donation to the Boston Renaissance School or to become a community partner, contact us!

www.bostonrenaissance.org

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