

REACH

A Creative Arts Magnet Program
Brook Haven Middle School, Sebastopol, California

Friday, October 10, 2008

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Spanish Class at REACH

By Ben Lev

Spanish is going very well. We completed an initial phase of "circling activities" (talking about what students like to sports, etc.) which was a personal and useful way to get to know the students. Now we're creating stories, wacky stories with bizarre details and strange twists, anything but boring stories. How do I ensure that stories be compelling? By insisting that the students provide fascinating answers to my questions. Where does Willie Wonka live? In CandyLand, of course. Interesting stories provide the joyful framework for language learning, in our case, the slow repetition of specifically chosen phrases inside of a story. This is how babies learn their first languages, in context, repetition, meaningful interaction. Unfortunately, second languages are often taught in a manner that requires memorization with little meaning. Conjugate verbs? We might do
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Mark Your Calendar

Fri., October 10

4/5 Class Field Trip: Four Winds Performance at Wells Fargo Center, 9:30am

Mon., October 13

Make Up Pictures: All school

Tues., October 14

Free TB clinic at Brook Haven for anyone who wants to volunteer with the classes.

Thurs., October 16, 23, 30
Parent Conferences/Early Release, 1:30

Fri. October 24

Analy Band Festival (Band)

Fri. October 24

*Brook Haven Dance
6th - 8th Graders*

Wed., October 29

All-REACH Project Display and Celebration (No Clubs), 1-3pm

Wed., November 5

*REACH Parent Evening
(date change from Oct. 15)*

Classified Announcements

For future issues, please send any community events, items for sale, services to offer, and other classified announcements of interest to the REACH community to Laurie Rubin at earthlaurie@earthlink.net

PTSA FALL FESTIVAL AT PARK SIDE

Friday, October 17 from 4 - 6:30 pm

Free kids activities:

- Creepy Science and Wild Weather
- Pumpkin contest
- Food Sales
- Cake Walk
- Harvest Activities and Crafts
- Races and Games
- Photo Booth
- Live entertainment

We still need parent and teen volunteers and baked goods. We particularly need bilingual volunteers. Cakes and baked goodies can be dropped at Park Side any time on the 17th. We also need pumpkins and corn stalks for decorating and apples for the cider press.

*- Debbie McAfee 874-3246,
debbiemcafee@earthlink.net*

PLEDGE REMINDER!

It's time to get your monthly pledge in! Please drop in the REACH box in the Brook Haven office or mail to: RPF, 708 Gravenstein Hwy N. #203, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Community Service & Leadership Club

By Violet Cole, 6th grade, & Kathleen van der Horst (Club teacher)

“Volunteering—the very act of caring and doing—makes a substantial difference in our individual lives because it nourishes the moral intelligence required for critical judgment and mature behavior.”

- *Arthur I. Blaustein*

My name is Violet Cole, 6th grade, and I am the Secretary of the Service and Leadership Club at REACH. In this club we do a lot of fun community service activities and learn how to be good leaders and run productive meetings.

During our first meeting we learned about how a Board is run, and we decided to run our club this way by starting with an election of officers. Each of the interested parties showed up the next week and gave a speech to the rest of the club stating why they would fit best into a particular role. We were all nervous, but excited. Once the speeches were over, we all voted. The outcome: President — Sophie Lev, Vice-President — Tesheia van der Horst, Secretary, Violet Cole, and Treasurer — Alice Doyle. We also elected team leaders who are in charge of our three focus areas: homeless shelters, the Senior Center, and a school recycle campaign. We are learning how to conduct ourselves and our meetings in an

organized and well run manner. We get a lot done each week and have fun in the process.

On the service end, our first focus is a canned food drive for a local homeless shelter. We have boxes in the school office for fourth through eighth graders. The grade that brings the most cans will get a special prize. The food drive started on September 24th and is going until October 15th. We were very excited when all the boxes in the office started to fill over with food! The entire Brookhaven campus participated, not just REACH students! It is a great feeling to do something that rallies the entire school and helps the community.

This last Sunday our Club had a bake sale by Ragle Park and brought in over \$100.00! We all met at our Club teacher’s house last Friday with recipes in hand and made different kinds of yummy cookies and treats for the sale. After we finished baking, we played some games. It was lots of fun!

We will be using most of the money to purchase Christmas presents for homeless children. The rest will purchase a couple of mouses (the computer kind) for school. Charity begins at home, right?

We plan on having one more bake sale that will be held after school, on the campus, but we are waiting for J.T. to give us the perfect date. We will let everyone know as soon as we know, so get your sweet tooth ready!

In the future, the Service and Leadership Club plans to have a recycle education presentation, telling students how, why and what to recycle. We also plan to provide

entertainment and treats for the Senior Center in December.

The Service and Leadership Club is definitely making a difference in our community, and we are all pleased to be a part of that difference. The best part about it is that we have a great time while really helping others. Once the Club ends, we members have decided to continue this work on our own. We plan to meet at lunchtime and run our meetings using the skills we learned during the Club.



a bit of that (as chants) but mostly we’re learning grammar via the language of our stories.

Recently we’ve focused on understanding and using two key verbs: “quiere” (s/he wants) and “tiene” (s/he has). What does Trent (in the 6th grade class) want? He wants to explode things. What does he want to explode? Fruit, of course. He especially wants to explode bananas. But he doesn’t have a banana and he doesn’t have a pear. Poor Trent. He would never explode a penguin, although it did happen once, to a penguin named Kale. That’s why at Alya’s soccer game (they play with a blueberry) in the Antarctic they played with only 10.5 penguins, not the usual 11 penguins. The 4th and 5th grade class creates stories about getting in and out of trouble: Grandpa makes a lot of noise at night by shouting and singing and talking, so his grandchildren can’t sleep until one of them sings him to sleep. In the 7th grade class there’s a boy named Chupacabras (Jaya) who happens to be stronger and more handsome than Chuck Norris. But who’s richer, Chuck or Chupacabras? Es obvio: Chupacabras has \$14.12 and Chuck only has \$14.10.

Parents please feel free to drop in anytime and join our fun. Be forewarned: I might ask you to act in one of our plays.

A Review of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*

By Milla K. and Emily G.

On Friday, September 26th, the REACH sixth, seventh and eighth graders went to the Marin Shakespeare Festival and saw a performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. It began with soldiers coming back from a war, traveling with Don John and his servants named Borachio and Conrad. Don John is the brother of Don Pedro who is the Prince of Aragon. After they come back, they meet with Leonato, the Governor of Messina. Leonato’s daughter is Hero and his niece is Beatrice. Benedick was in the war on Don Pedro’s side along with his best friend Claudio. When Claudio meets Hero, he instantly falls in love with her and proposes. Hero accepts and they plan to marry the following week.

Since there is nothing more to worry about, Benedick and Beatrice’s fellow friends decide to play a trick on them to make them fall in love with each other. But Don John is not happy. Don John decides to trick Claudio into thinking that Hero doesn’t love him and has cheated on him. This plan includes Borachio and his girlfriend Margaret who is Hero’s gentlewoman and friend. The plan is that Borachio and Margaret make love in Hero’s window. Don John then brings Claudio

and Don Pedro to see them in action. Don Pedro and Claudio are tricked. At the wedding, Claudio accuses Hero of cheating on him, Instantly Hero faints and Beatrice thinks she’s dead. The whole family is devastated!

The Friar thinks of an idea to take revenge on Claudio by pretending that Hero is really dead. Then the police, Dogberry and Verges, find out that Borachio, Don John and Conrad had tricked Claudio and Don Pedro. The three are arrested and are brought to Leonato’s house to confess. Claudio overhears what they have done and is extremely sad. He decides that he will do anything for Leonato for what he has done. Leonato says that he must sing to Hero’s bones and marry his brother’s daughter who is almost a copy of Hero. So Claudio does what Leonato says and comes back the next day to marry. When he takes off the veil, he sees that it is Hero. They decide to celebrate with a party! While everyone celebrates, Benedick asks Beatrice to marry him. All is well, and everybody is happy. REACH students were very pleased with the performance.



Art with Ms. Jatón: Students painted scenes from “Boy of the Painted Cave”, using only sticks, feathers and leaves for tools.



7th & 8th grade book report container art.

More photos on the next page!

Student art photos courtesy of Rachelle Steele

