

REACH

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

Monday, September 24, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

School Start Time

Many students are wandering in to class between 8:05 and 8:15. The school day starts at 8:00 and special teachers who are hired to teach a lesson are having to repeat directions over and over or waste time waiting for late students. Please pay attention to your arrival time. Tardies are counted.

New Computers

The donation of computers from Santa Rosa Junior College was completed with the delivery of all the items last Wednesday.

Thanks to:

- Gordon Shimizu for arranging the opportunity
- Silas Edman, Colin Doyle, Mikio and Gordon for picking them up and delivering them to school
- 8th grade leadership class for helping unload all the equipment and placing it in the classrooms.

The new tech expert for the district, Matt Carpenter, has looked at them and figured out the needed peripherals and will begin to go through all of them to get them set up next week. While Matt was here Thursday, he activated the email accounts of Ms. Hall and Ms. Jatón. So you can now reach them as listed in Parent Handbook.—*Nancy Higham*

Sebastopol Education Foundation

Becky Garlock, SEF President, spoke at the last parent meeting and asked all parents to support SEF with a donation. They are hoping for a one time donation of \$35 from every family in the district. Or another way to support SEF is to buy 4 or 5 calendars and give them as gifts over the holidays. The monetary contribution is the same for SEF.

Mom's Night Out

Mom's night is now a monthly event. Thank you to all the moms who could make it Friday night to the French Garden. It was great to see new people and old friends. We had loads of fun giggles and great conversation. What a wonderful and supportive group. Those who couldn't make it, we missed you, but we will do it again next month and hope you'll join us.—*Kathleen (Tesheia's mom)*

Sponsor a Tree

More tree sponsors are needed so we can add grasses and other colorful bushes to complete the landscaping project. Partial or whole tree contributions are welcome. Contact Nancy Higham for more information or put your check marked TREE in the gold box in the office.



www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Mon. Oct. 1

Donations Due
Please put in the gold box in the office.

Wed. Oct 3

REACH Parent Foundation meeting; budget approval, All curriculum committee members need to attend
6:30 Brook Haven library

Thurs. Oct. 4

String Ensemble class
Arrive at 7:50 a.m. (We need more violin players.)

Thurs. Oct. 4

6th grade Rocks and Recycling field trip to Windsor Park. Depart 8:45 and return 1:00

Fri. Oct. 5

Morning coffee before school
Grade 4/5 host this month

Fri. Oct. 5

1st session of club activities
1:30 to 3:05

Thurs. Oct. 18

Parent Meeting 6:30 Brook Haven library

Fri. Oct. 19 - 4/5 field

trip to Wells Fargo Center "Movement" Depart 8:50, return 11:00.

Go With the Flow Chart

One of the many unique features of our REACH program is the amazing level of parental involvement and a clear investment in the Program. By being involved in our children's education, it is only natural that we have opinions, ideas and occasional concerns. At times it is hard to know the best way and the best person to take these thoughts to. To this end we have come up with a flow chart to direct you where to go and who to talk with so that your voice and the thoughts behind it can best be heard.

For those of you who were not able to attend the parent meeting last week, we have posted on the next page a copy of the flowchart that was distributed that evening. It is really important that you follow the path that is laid out in the chart. The chart outlines the most direct and effective way to resolution if you have a concern, as well as where to go with your fantastic creative ideas. "Parking lot" conversations, while often fun and stress relieving, are really not the best way to get a concern addressed or have your voice really heard.

So please, please, follow the chart!

Speaking of Parent Meetings

So much good information is presented, it is really important that you try and attend. Because 2 of our parent meetings are actually parent socials, or parties if you will, that leaves only 7 evenings a year where we have the chance to meet. Next month will be an educational event that you won't want to miss!

—Cheryl Costantini, RPF Board President

A Visit to Magi's Pond

Last week I had the opportunity to accompany Ms. Hall and her REACH 4/5 class on a visit to 'Magi's Pond', which is on a lovely stretch of land surrounded by vineyards outside Graton. The group was lead in a series of fun and informative activities by our ever-observant guide, Magi Discoe. She began by showing us 'Darwin's Workshop', a room in the old house on the land that contains innumerable science artifacts ranging from a Red-Tailed Hawk egg to skulls with antlers intact to the much coveted 'solar beads' that change from clearish white when indoors to a variety of bright colors when taken outdoors and held beneath the sun. After the children had had time

Creative Arts Magnet Program Flowchart for Addressing Issues, Concerns and Feedback

<u>If the Concern, Issue, or Feedback relates to.....</u>	<u>Go first to...</u>	<u>If that doesn't work, go to.....</u>	<u>If that doesn't work, go to....</u>
• a core academic teacher	• the teacher	Kent Cromwell	David Wheeler
• core academic content	• the teacher	Nancy Higham	Kent Cromwell
• an enrichment teacher	• the enrichment teacher	Nancy Higham	Kent Cromwell
• enrichment content	• the enrichment teacher	Nancy Higham	Kent Cromwell
• class discipline	• the teacher	Kent Cromwell	David Wheeler
• playground interaction	the teacher working with Nancy Higham	Kent Cromwell	David Wheeler
specific program recommendations or issues (field trips, activities, parent education, etc.)	• Nancy Higham	REACH Board (or designated member)	Kent Cromwell
<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Teacher email addresses</u>		
4/5 Melissa Hall	mhall@sebusd.org	J.T. O'Neill	Kent Cromwell
6 Claudia Dalessio	cdalessio@sebusd.org	829-4590	829-4590
7 Kimberly Jatton	kjaton@sebusd.org	joneill@sebusd.org	kcromwell@sebusd.org
8 Steph Fraine	sfraine@sebusd.org		
Nancy Higham (phone 321-3793) nchigham@sonic.net	Brook Haven office 829-4590		© REACH Parent Foundation 2007

touching and exploring the many objects on display, Magi placed a tall lamp on the table, with the light bulb playing the 'sun'. She then took a globe and walked it around the sun to demonstrate how the sun's angle on the earth changes through the yearly cycle.

Next, we went outside and the children took a look through the telescope at a mama egret and her two young who were spending time mingling with the large white geese on a pond across the road. Now it was time to embark on a walk around the land. We proceeded slowly so as to be able to practice looking for animal tracks, feathers and scat, which we excitedly identified with special identifier cards. We found evidence of numerous local denizens, as well as plenty of obsidian, signs of the former Native American inhabitants of the land. We identified some plants and grasses (cattails and tule which surrounded



Magi's Pond), and then were blessed by the special appearance of a unique-looking preying mantis (spotted by an observant student) who was camouflaged the same blonde color as the grass on which it sat, utterly motionless. It was a miracle to even spot such a creature, let alone observe its large and striking, ancient-feeling form.

Further along, by the edge of a tall forest, another student spotted a large woodpecker, pecking away with gusto at a tree which clearly she had spent quite some time on. Everyone got a chance to observe her up close, either through binoculars or telescope, which was quite a sight! Heading back down towards the house, a few students spotted small gray feathers tipped with fluorescent red and yellow – more exciting finds! By the end of the walk I think everyone's eyes and ears had grown sharper and more attuned to the methods of attentive scientific observation.

Next the children had the opportunity to look under microscopes at slides of some murky water, rich with algae and microorganisms, which we had collected along the way. Mutterings of 'awesome!' and 'that's scary!' could be heard as they eagerly took their turns observing.

After lunch the kids had time for a fun and energizing game involving relaying water from various-sized cups back and forth from 8 'plants' to feed the 2 'rabbits' who in turn fed the 1 'hawk,' so as to better understand the life cycle flow. There were cries for More!, Again!, but our time was almost up, so after a brief feast on the local raspberries, they participated in a group writing exercise that involved each of them writing a Quintain (five line) poem on one giant piece of paper. The topic of the poems was anything to do with Fall, which was appropriate as Magi had done much to direct the children's attention during the day to where we are in the cycle of the seasons. Some

wrote about Leaves, some about Preying Mantis, others about the Sun.

On the drive back home, we could indeed see the gorgeous turning of the leaves just beginning, in keeping with one of the important themes of the day. I think all were satisfied with this most successful field trip outing!

—Diana Badger

6th Grade Drama

As sixth grade parents already know, the students in Ms. Delassio's class have started working on their production of "The Phantom Tollbooth" with drama instructor John Shillington. John, an alumni Reach parent, and drama teacher at SRJC, has taught drama to the 6th grade at Reach for the past 4 years. We are thrilled to have him back with us again this year.

As a parent it was exciting for me to go into class last Wednesday afternoon and help out. John is a phenomenal teacher – he really knows how to get all the students to go to the next level – and he gets the "dramatic" energy level in the room buzzing – but in a controlled way! It's great to see this talented group of kids working together. A parent or two is always needed to help run lines. I would highly recommend this as a way to participate in the program, get to know your child's friends, and have a little fun along the way. So if you ever have some free time on Monday or Wednesday from 2-3pm, come to Room 11. And if not soon, don't worry, there will be plenty more opportunities to participate later in the year!

-Lisa Doyle

Henry IV Field Trip



On a pleasantly overcast day, the 7th and 8th grade classes attended Marin Shakespeare's performance of "King Henry IV Part I." Despite the title, the star of the show, of course, was Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare's most famous character. But many of the students were more intrigued with the hairstyles of Poin (right) and Mistress Quickly (left), two characters from the Boar's Head Tavern. During a Q&A after the performance, one student asked if there was a punk element to the show's design. The producer explained that while the warriors' costumes were defined by leather and studs instead of armor, the designers went for more of a punk look for the tavern characters. She also said that Marin Shakes offers internships to high school and college students. - Richard Koman

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Youth Volunteer Corps

The Youth Volunteer Corps is holding the very first Y.E.A.H. (Youth Engaged And Helping) Session Oct. 5 & 6th to address the issue of genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Meet Friday Oct. 5th from 6-8 pm at CHOPS Teen Center in Santa Rosa located at 509 Adams St. off of Railroad Square.

Activities will include a youth presentation, group discussion, and a self expression art component. Sat. Oct. 6th is a fundraiser car wash. From 12-4 pm at the Grocery Outlet on 4th St. in Santa Rosa. Snacks & drinks will be provided! E-mail Megan at mbackus@volunteer-now.org.

Wild Cat Adventure

Leopards Etc return with info on wild cat preservation and five gorgeous felines: maybe a cougar, African leopard, cheetah, ocelot, lynx, serval or caracal. Sep 30 at 2. \$5-\$10, 707.874.3176. Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St, Sebastopol.

Tuesdays at the Teahouse

Free performances every Tues at 8. Infusions Teahouse, 6988 McKinley, Sebastopol (North Bay), 707.829.1181.

CLASSIFIEDS

House+Dog Sitter Wanted

Help! We are looking for a home for our dog Daisy while we are in Australia from the middle of December to the middle of January. If you have a great dog/house sitter that you would recommend, or if you would be interested in a "dog care exchange" arrangement, call Lisa, 823- 5034, or marchant63@hotmail.com.

For Sale

Yakima Q Towers with locks. \$90 or B.O. Fits cars without rain gutters. All you need are the bars. It fit our 95 Honda Odyssey. Go to www.yakima.com to see if these would fit your car. E-mail Amy at amy@djunadesign.com.

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