

REACH

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

Monday, October 8, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Heartfelt Thanks

What a wonderful surprise your marvelously embracing words and gracious gifts were the night of the parent meeting. We relish hearing "Thank you", don't we, for a task done to a turn. I felt quite swaddled, well-wrapped in your appreciation. Bob and I will soon take advantage of the get-away, days at the mouth of the Russian River and dinner in the twilight.

I want you, in turn, to know how much your support of the REACH kids has meant to me. I work for REACH because each year I grow to love the students, and parents, and I continue to have great passion for building opportunities for them to learn well. Of course it would not be possible without your generous contributions to support field-trips and clubs, support your children's academic and social growth, your fulsome offers to drive, take noon duty, quickly pick up the challenge when we have an emergency. And certainly, support from our talented teachers, supportive administration, and the whole school staff.

I know you're there to help because we share values and commitment to another wonderful year for these kids.

All the very best to you and thank you very much. —Nancy Higham

Trading Places

As many of you already know, the 6th and 8th grad classrooms are switching classrooms. The date for this transition is Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 3:05. We will need many parents from those two grades and students who want to help are welcome to participate also. The teachers will supervise where it all goes. We will bring in pizza and salad for early supper. Please send a note to your student's teacher if you can participate and the number of folks that represents and if you want to be a part of the food order which RPF will cover.

6th Grade Drama Reminders

The drama class in the 6th grade is dependent on parents who come in to help students go through lines in small groups. Drama is Monday at 2:13 and Wednesday at 2:00. It's easy to do and John shows you how and supports your efforts. Parents also need to continue working with students each night to master their lines.

Social Studies Assistant Needed

Ms. Jatón needs a Social Studies assistant who can run off packets and gather a few materials for *History Alive!*. The hours can be flexible but weekly by arrangement with Ms. Jatón. To the extent that a parent can help here, Ms. Jatón has more time for editing the writing of all the students.



www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Mon. Oct 8

- Donations past due.
- Deliver all materials as requested by Ms. Jatón
- Curriculum Meeting
6:30 Brook Haven Library
All welcome

Tues. Oct. 9

Classroom Moving Day
Start at 3:05- RSVP to get in
pizza count

Wed. Oct. 10

RPF Board meeting
Agenda items needed to
complete last week's meet-
ing 6:30 Brook Haven Library

Fri. Oct. 12

Make-up morning coffee
before school.
See you all there.

Oct. 12 - Oct. 22

Nancy on vacation

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.

Put On Your Dancing Shoes

The first Brook Haven school dance will be on Friday, October 19, from 5:00 to 7:30 for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. However, if your student has an F as of Wednesday, Oct. 17, they will not be permitted to go. Also, if a student has been suspended during the month of



October they are not permitted to attend. The cost is \$5 at the door if you wear a costume and \$6 without. Parent chaperones are needed to watch the entry door, bathrooms, and manage snacks. All parents are invited to send finger foods such as two dozen cookies, brownies, or box drinks.

Brook Haven Spirit Week

The week of Oct. 15 to the 19 is Spirit Week and a lot of special events are in the works. That week the bulletin board that is read in the classroom will spell out the events for the next day including special dress possibilities.

What to Wear on Halloween?



If your student isn't yet too cool to dress up on Halloween, Brook Haven will have a costume contest at noon in the gym. There will be prizes for different categories. Costumes may not be inappropriate or suggestive. Of

course, no weapons are allowed as part of a costume. By the way, these constraints also apply to the dance.

6th Grade Field Trip

The 6th grade took a trip to Foothills Park in Windsor.

There they studied rocks and minerals (they've been studying that in science).

The park has all three types of rock (sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous) which formed from lava flows.



Now, I bet you're wondering, "Where did the lava come from?" (I was too). It came from Mount St. Helena. (Over 50,000,000 years ago!). It seems a little far, 70 miles, but it still came. It formed obsidian, which comes from slowly cooled lava. We hiked, found different rocks and identified them, and learned about how the Earth's magma creates rocks and recycles them. We ate lunch on the trail which was next to a small lake. That was fun. Our class had a great time. —*Jack Buller*

Ann Buller's Corner

SNAVAG!

(Situation Normal All Volunteers Are Great)

Don't even ask me how my mind got to this point where SNAVAG replaced SNAFU, it just happened and better left unquestioned. But I do think it is kinda funny, don't you? And thank God or goodness or Goddess or who ever you are thanking these days that SNAFU doesn't work here. (Drew, I apologize for the skewed intro to your honorary spot here in the REACH News. You and Gordon Shimizu will be the first recipients of the SNAVAG award.)

I personally LOVE Gordon Shimizu. I will be the first, yes the very first in line to say that Gordon Shimizu is my hero (a long math story). And again Gordon stepped up to the selfless-act-of-volunteerism plate to make me a set of sandwich boards, at the last possible minute, for our picnic at Ragle this past summer. Oh, Gordon they were so beautiful! But they were a little scary, top heavy to be specific. And I swear this is true upon my oldest child's birth-certificate, that John and I spent an entire afternoon one Sunday trying to see if we could shore up those things and make them safe. We must have walked around those sandwich boards dozens of times staring at them, daring them to come up with the perfect solution....nothing..... nothing happened. I was beginning to break out in a sweat, worried about how two normal fairly intelligent individuals could not solve this seemingly simple problem. I started to have that sinking feeling knowing that all of the other things we needed to do were slipping by. We all know what it feels like on a Sunday afternoon trying to wrap up as many projects and have-to's before that twilight falls signaling the end of the weekend, that dreaded moment when you know it's all over and your going to have to wait until next weekend to finish the whatever's. I finally broke the spell and announced "forget it!" "We just can't figure it out". (Words my husband will rarely ever admit to saying.) Then TA! DA! Somehow I thought of Drew Allen. (I think I called him on the phone once to ask if he could do a yard duty or library duty and he said he worked during the day in construction.) Light-bulb!! Well, the next thing I noticed, I was calling Drew to ask if he could come over and tweak Gordon's slightly malfunctioning masterpiece. He's in construction, right? If he couldn't figure it out.... then.....In a flash Drew came out to my home and looked it over. Well, and this is the magical part: he said I will make them how you want them. Sounds good, how do I like them? I like my eggs over easy, sometimes hard boiled. How should I know? I think I babbled a few thoughts and away he went! I crossed

and held beneath the sun. After the children had had time 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 my fingers and let go! In the meantime I mentioned to someone that I had given a Drew Allen (who ever he was) a project to do. They made a few comments, something about genius work or something like that and I swear I am sorry, I didn't pay too much attention to it.

Lo and behold! Delivery last week brought the most beautiful furniture-grade sandwich boards I have ever seen. Can those two thoughts be in the same sentence? They are like pieces of art work. O.K. I got it now! Master craftsman! How did I know? He didn't tell me! Of course my first instinct was to assign him every building type job that we could ever want! Shelves, chairs, staircases, desks, houses, cupboards, tables.....But then I had to pull myself up short, whoa there sister! We have to use him sparingly, only in the most valued of spots, showcase like. So in full admiration and recognition of a master craftsman, Drew Allen you are awarded along with Gordon Shimizu, the first ever SNAVAG AWARD! Congratulations! (To see his work you will have to wait until we figure out the best way to use these beauties, any suggestions?)

HunnyBy

Prologue: Title of this article was delivered to me by my son reaching over the half-wall of our family room, fidgeting aimlessly over the computer keyboard, (just to bug me I'm sure), when poof! this random group of letters appeared. This of course was after I spent about an hour or more on the internet looking up famous quotes that might trigger some clever title of same said article, unsuccessfully I might add.

Hunnyby, as in "Oh, honey by the way....." or as in "Honey by the way I have a honey-do weekend planned for you."

Hunnyby we need some wonderful volunteers to raise their hands and take some action to make some wonder-

ful things happen around and about the REACH campus. "Action brings your dream closer", a famous quote. "Inaction creates nothing.... will you help create our outcome?" a not-so-famous quote made up by yours truly after looking at hundreds of famous quotes. You are the solution! Are you ready? I promise you will have some fun when you get into the action. Read on and pick one or more!

1. THIS IS A SPECIAL CALL FOR ALL OF THE PARENTS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE CHILDREN OF THE 6TH AND 8TH GRADES: We will be switching classrooms on this Tuesday, Oct. 9th right after school. All the stuff that is in the 6th grade classroom needs to be hauled into the 8th grade classroom and vice versa. Yes you heard me, I am not making this up! The 6th grade has too many kids in that small room, one wrong move and they all go down! One sneeze and they all get sick! So switcharoo! Everyone needs to help! Change your plans, postpone your much needed whatever, and come help in the greatest switch you have ever seen!

2. Do you have a child who is in the cooking or pottery clubs? Well, if you do or maybe if you are really generous and know that someone else will be covering for you someday, you could volunteer to be a driver to and from these clubs on Friday afternoons. The children will be out of luck if we can't find drivers to take them to their classes. But think of it, you would get to watch and maybe even learn something yourself! All you have to do is make sure your driving papers are in and on file (you can give them to either Nancy or Ann Akers or Ann Buller). Do this for the kids! Call Ann A.(thing 1) or Ann B.(thing 2) to volunteer.

3. Are you a cheerful, pretty much self induced organized person? There must be at least one of you type A's out there who would be willing to be the Volunteer Coordinator. I am the temporary VC but I already have a position on the board called the special events coordinator, which you can guess coordinates the special events. I don't want to be both, as I have a family and I am pretty sure about this, a life, which I have misplaced somewhere. It really isn't that complicated and I could give you all the training/info you need. One of you has to step forward or I'll get very grumpy and there is nothing like a mad red-head tromping around. It's an ugly sight! Volunteer NOW! (an added bonus: you get to tell people what to do!) Call Ann Buller and let her know the good news!

4. Do you remember reading about our REACH program going green? The green is turning brown, because I can't put energy into that also and stay fairly sane. I personally love this idea and so many of you seemed very interested. I was thinking that if there were a group of you who were together on this you could have a great time

developing a green program for our REACH program. There is a lot of support and cooperation for this idea so it wouldn't take much. I could even be the one to put you all in touch with one another. Remember: we are modeling our efforts so the kids can take over and save the world! Call me, Ann Buller for signing up.

5. LUNCH DUTY extras. This is the easiest job ever, I am pretty sure. We need extras for substitutes. Frankly we are going to be in big trouble if we don't get some subs. We have a full time opening on Wednesdays that needs to be filled immediately. That day is 11:55 to 12:35. The kids need to go out and play and if someone is sick, whoa baby! Not the best news to these kids! And during rainy days we need these same parents to staff each classroom. As a sub you would only be called once in a while. The benefit for this one is that you will get to hang out and get to know the kids that are in your child's classroom. A definite plus! Contact Ann Akers and make her day!

6. A CALL FOR THE 8TH GRADE PARENTS! You need two class parents to represent you for certain things during the school year. This is your last year, 8th grade parents! Don't poop out now! You just have a little while to go! Think how fast this year has gone already! Before you know it the year will be gone and I know you might have some regretful feelings if you miss out on this last very important year of REACH. Be proactive! Show your kids how important it is to make that last single big push! I refuse to be the 8th grade class parent representative even though I love this class! I draw the line here!

Hunnyby the way, you get the drift! If everyone does a little and we spread it around no one has to do all of it! I just can't do lunch duty, Friday club driver, volunteer coordinator, special events coordinator, creating our going green project, class parent and doing the extras that inevitably come up as in #1. If that's the case then I get to bring my dog to school, my favorite jammies, and I want a large salary!

Call Ann A. 823-4554 Call Ann B. 829-8048

Last but Not Least...

I am so sorry that I let a lot of people down last Friday morning without coffee, goodies and chat time. It was totally my fault. I am personally inviting all of you back this coming Friday morning and I promise that we will be there to provide you with that very special informal time that is so great! I even found out that you all brought your own mugs and that just about did it. I now officially feel really bad. And I want to make it up to you somehow! So please come back on this coming Friday, Oct. 12, with your beautiful mugs and enjoy that sweet moment in the morning. I will see you there and thank you for your patience.—Ann Buller

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADT Auditions - American Dream Theatre seeks techies and comic or musical folks for winter production of original musical comedy "Warp 60s." Meet in back room. Oct 6-7, 1 to 3. 707.538.7543. Coffee Catz, 6761 Sebastopol Ave, Sebastopol, 707.829.6600.



Poetry at French Garden

Translations in Clay-Sunday, October 7 ~ 2-4 pm
The Poetry of Primordial Pots, Tikkun Olam ~ "Healing the World" featuring Deborah Le Sueur and Sonoma County poets

Balkan Dance with Live Music

Featuring Gradina, Sunday, October 28 ~ 2-4 pm at The French Garden Restaurant \$10 donation for the musicians

Chops Teen Club - Hang-out spot for Santa Rosa teens ages 12 to 18 offers art studio and class, open gym, tech lounge, cafe, recording studio and film club. Hours for high schoolers: Mon-Thurs, 3 to 9; Fri, 3 to 11; Sat and school holidays, noon to 11. For middle school kids: Mon-Fri, 3 to 7; Sat and school holidays, noon to 7. Art studio open Mon-Sat until 5:30. Film club meets Tues at 4. Membership, \$1 per year., www.chopsonline.com.



Chops Teen Club, 509 Adams St, Santa Rosa (North Bay), 707.284.2467.

Pacific Pinball Exhibition - Hundreds of vintage pinball machines, artwork, presentations and more. Benefits Neptune Beach Amusement Museum. Oct 5-7; Fri, 2 to 10; Sat, 10 to midnight; Sun, 10 to 9. \$20-\$35. Exhibit Hall, Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, 415.499.6800.

Want to Advertise?

REACH classifieds for for-sale items, events, and interest matches are free for individuals in the REACH community. We also have business classifieds. If you'd like to advertise your business in the REACH News, it's \$10 a month or \$50 a year for a classified ad or \$100 a year for a 2" x 2" ad. Kid businesses advertise free.