



October, 2011

A Monthly Newsletter from the REACH School Board

A Note from the Director

As I sit down to write this, I begin to reflect on the past 2 months of school and how much the REACH community has accomplished. Teachers, students, families and staff all together are co-creating the new REACH school! Parent/student teacher conferences for the fall have just been completed; the hallways have a continual buzz of enthusiasm as our students settle into their projects, their enrichment clubs and their relationships. New adventures are on the horizon and every day brings a gift to those of us at REACH.

I feel the importance of keeping the conversation alive around the 4 R's: **Be Respectful:** honor your decision-making boundaries and those of others; **Be Responsible:** see yourself as cause instead of victim; **Be Resourceful:** effective action; **Be Responsive:** act for the good of the whole; we are interdependent and interconnected. Ho' ala Education is a philosophy that uses a coherent system of practices to develop citizens of personal integrity who act effectively for the greater good. We achieve this purpose when the school and home partner to create environments where children develop habits of responsibilities, respect, resourcefulness and responsiveness through example and experience, and as a result, gain academic confidence and competence.

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REACH 2011-12 Fundraising Goals

By Sean McNeil, RPF Treasurer



REACH Fundraising Goal: Each month, as we get closer to achieving our goal, more of the logo will become visible, until we meet the goal of \$130,000

There is nothing more boring than a plea for financial assistance, but think of this plea as an opportunity to make the most of this educational experience for our children. In this start-up year REACH has more expenses than usual, and the school needs to have full support of the REACH community to attain our goals. **This year our goal is to raise \$130,000!**

Why \$130,000?

The school year started with an estimated \$180,000 shortfall between expected expenses and the expected income. Due to some budgetary corrections and a fiscally astute director, we have reduced the gap by \$50,000. That leaves \$130,000 left

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www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, October 27

Italian Family Dinner & Talent Show! 5-8pm, Sebastopol Grange

Monday, October 31

HALLOWEEN
Festivities 1pm on

Tuesday, November 1

NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day

Tuesday, November 2

All school trip to Courthouse Square for Día de los Muertos

Friday, November 11

NO SCHOOL
Veteran's Day

Monday, November 14

RPF Board Meeting, 6pm REACH Library

Wednesday, November 16

Culmination

Saturday, November 19

Holiday Gift Fair with REACH booth, Sebastopol Grange, 11am-5pm

Monday, November 21 -

Friday, November 25
NO SCHOOL

Thanksgiving Holidays

Wednesday, December 7

Parent Meeting, 6-8:30pm, REACH Library

to raise, and in the first two months of school we have almost raised \$30,000!

A list of 6 easy things you can do

1. **100% pledges**—the goal is for all families to give something each month. *Currently, 70% of the families contribute something each month.*
2. **Sign up for eScrip**—the goal is to have 300 people signed up. **Only 25 of our current families are participating.** This is free money for our school.
3. **Increase student attendance**—the school only gets money from the State for children that are at school. REACH has already lost \$4,100 from student absences this year. If your student is going to be absent, let the office know and get an independent study package so the school continues to get funding.
4. **If you can, give more**—now is the time. If the average monthly pledge increased by \$10, we could raise an additional \$5,000 for the year.
5. **Donate your time**—participate in fundraising events or lead a fundraiser that brings in money from outside our REACH families.
6. **Tell others about REACH**—boosting enrollment really helps! Our goal is to have 68 students by the end of December. As of print-time, we have 63.

How will I know my actions are helping?

As the Treasurer, I promise to track the fundraising activities and make the information available to the community. We are making a Fundraising Goals sign to be mounted in the parking lot that will graphically illustrate our progress towards our fundraising goal. There will also be a monthly update in the newsletter, with information about fundraising activities.

Welcome New Families!

Since the beginning of the school year, we've welcomed several new students and families:

- Alden • Jordan • Natalie
- Elani • Moses & Josiah

Class Updates from students

4th Grade Update

- Amina

"In Humanities, we are doing the *Island of the Blue Dolphins* book reports—the choices of project are a life-size drawing, a board game, a canoe procedural, or a 5 paragraph essay. My group is doing a board game.

In math we are learning how to write a check, and place-value review, and we just finished 4th grade Geometry.

In Spanish we're getting ready for Día de los Muertos, and bringing in pictures of specific people to put on the altar. In Art we're doing skulls on black pieces of paper and decorating them. Because Día de los Muertos is about happiness, not being sad.

In Science we're doing hardness tests and mineral stuff with rocks. We haven't started working with soil yet."

5th/6th Grade Update

- Destiny

"In American History we're studying the Explorers. We're going to do a little essay after we take notes from the computer and do a rough draft. We're also doing Our Favorite Place essay—we take notes, correct and edit them, and do a final draft. We can type it up if we want to."

7th Grade Update

- Caleb

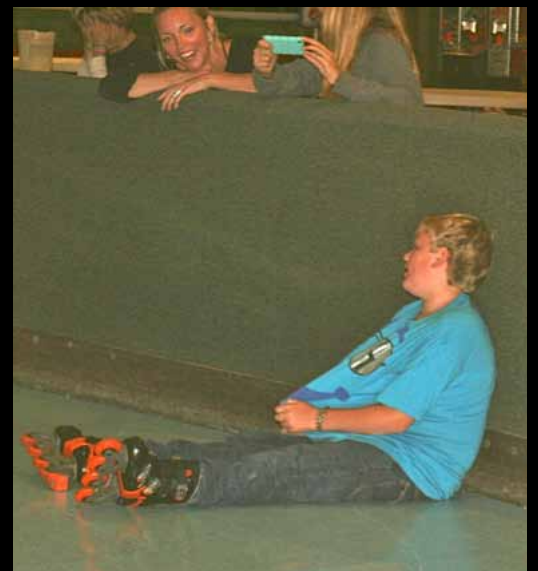
"In Science we're studying cells, how they work and split. We're making models of that into shrinky dinks. All the activities and videos about it we get to watch are fun.

In History right now we are learning about Islam and the Prophet Mohammed and how it influenced the world. I really like statistics and big numbers, and we get to work with that, like the percentage of Muslims in the world. I like that stuff. We'll be doing Medieval history next.

We're doing soccer in P.E., and in Spanish we're writing stories and making an altar for Día de los Muertos. In Art we're doing projects about skeletons, but not gruesome skeletons—they're happy and very colorful."

Skate Night!

(thanks to Rachelle for the photos)



7th Grade Leadership Retreat

October 13, 2011

The purpose of the Retreat was to work in our committees and get planning done. My responsibilities were to make sure everybody was on task, set down the ground rules, plan, check people in, and run pretty much the whole thing.

All groups set deadlines, discussed what they were going to do, and people bonded and had a good time.

I think the best thing was that people had a good time and I learned great leadership skills.

-Alex, Student Council

Leadership has many appearances. So often in middle school, it is the loudest, most aggressive kids who become the leaders. As a parent I would prefer that we develop leadership based upon thoughtfulness, self-reflection, inclusion, accountability, and responsibility. Yet these are skills that we as adults are often still striving to develop.

So, I have to applaud Goldie for her brilliant plan for a 7th grade leadership retreat. She took three members of the 7th grade student council (Colin, Alex and Gavin) to the California Association of Student Councils conference for leadership training. Then she challenged those kids to plan a leadership retreat that would create a student voice in the development of REACH as a school. She helped these fledgling leaders use their new skills to plan the entire event with the help of their classmates. Meeting before school, at lunch or in class time, they planned a retreat from start to finish including overall schedule, breakout sessions, menu, budget, recreational activities, sleeping arrangements, and work crews including cooking and clean up. As adult chaperones, we were there if needed for safety, but the kids stepped up and were responsible for EVERYTHING including group behavior.

Two sessions were scheduled in the afternoon with parent mentors supporting groups as they selected facilitators, recording secretaries and presenters, and then worked to define the goals and objectives of their group. I watched in admiration as quiet leadership arose and was recognized, dominant personalities learned to share leadership, and the strength of ideas eclipsed popularity. I am looking forward to seeing the results of each committee – yearbook, snack bar, newspaper, spirit, sports

and fun events. But there is another more important result—the hands-on training in leadership that they all received. These skills will serve our kids in schoolwork, projects, community service and school leadership.

As host of the event, I had a lot of parents tell me that I was “brave” or “crazy”. Here’s what I really am—Proud and amazed and ready to do it again.

-Debbie McAfee

As one of the parents I was thoroughly impressed with the way the 7th graders took charge in facilitating the event. They obviously spent time preparing for this. Colin, Alex, and Gavin (with William’s help) took their roles as leaders, coordinators and disciplinarians (when they had to be) seriously and in a very responsible and respectful way. They even cooked hot dogs and coordinated a cleaning crew!

After exploring the McAfee property and saying “hi” to the animals the students got down to business. They went into four groups to plan activities. Each group had a parent liaison and Goldie was the roaming assistant.

Everyone ended the evening by playing basketball, flashlight tag, watching movies and even a nature hike.

-Julie Zanzi

The 7th Grade Fun Events Leadership Group is bursting with great ideas. The group made great progress brainstorming at the Leadership overnight. The first fun event on the agenda is the upcoming Halloween Festivities! Also in the works is a Student Talent Show, just for kids, so polish up your acts and we’ll keep you posted on dates. The Fun Events group has so many creative ideas, their greatest challenge is simply how to do them all!

-Rachelle Steele

I attended the 7th Grade overnight planning meeting and worked with a small group of students on developing ideas for a sports program at the school. We decided that there was a need for inter-school sports as well as some days of sports activities at REACH. It was very impressive to see the energy and ideas pouring out of the students. When the kids are empowered to take responsibility they really “show up”. Thanks for a great event.

-Joshua Lapidés

Note from Parents: The 7th Grade Leadership Overnight at Camp McAfee was a huge success!

Note from kids: We had an epical time! the best parts were games, staying up late and getting up early to music and pancakes.



The audience was very enthusiastic...



flt-1657
October 12, 2011



Thanks Rachelle!



Band Update

The REACH School Band is off and running (or playing that is!). The library-turned-Band Room for the mornings is working well and office staff say they enjoy starting the day with the sounds of music. And no wonder as the students are sounding great!! New music has arrived and there has been a donation of 10 music stands (thank you Rich Concoff!). Beginning Band is now meeting two days a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. Advanced Band is meeting three days a week, coming in on Tuesdays also to practice by instrument group (sectionals) and then meeting to play together on Mondays and Thursdays. There will be a REACH School Band concert in November at culmination and other concerts are being planned now for winter and spring—stay tuned for details. Also, there will be a re-scheduled band fundraiser coming soon to help with purchasing more music (a continuing need) and for concerts and field trips later this year. If your student is interested in playing in band, beginning or advanced, stop in and talk with Reach Band Director Dan Hetzer or e-mail him at dan.hetzerband@gmail.com.

- Deborah Waller

Current Volunteer Needs

ITALIAN DINNER, OCT 27th:

We could use a few more wonderful folks to help with set-up & breakdown!

Please contact Rachele (1rawshell@gmail.com) or Alex (solremiegea@yahoo.com)

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS, OCT 31st:

Set-up 10:00 & Breakdown 1:30

Please contact Rachele (1rawshell@gmail.com) or sign-up in school office

CULMINATION DAY, NOV 16th

Set-up: 12:30 & Breakdown 3:15

Please sign-up in the school office, (volunteer board).

MARKETING COMMITTEE NEEDED

Please contact Debbie McAfee (debbiemcaf@comcast.net) if interested

TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

Please contact Goldie if interested

The premises of the Reach School:

- We believe that human beings are self-determining and are responsible for their own lives and this means even our 4th graders have the capacity to be responsible.
- We believe that human beings learn best when they are not afraid of making mistakes which are valuable opportunities to learn.
- We believe that humans are social creatures who thrive when they support and are supported by others in their community.
- We believe that human beings have the power to transform their lives by what they choose to think.
- We believe that by fulfilling the psychological and emotional needs for sense of self and sense of belonging, the capacity of learning and for compassion blossoms. These needs are fulfilled when students are listened to, taken seriously, and make a contribution.
- We believe that each person matters and makes a difference to everyone else.
- We believe that when a school is organized around these beliefs, students will flourish and develop resiliency when meeting challenges and grow academically.

The Agreement System is designed as a system to help your child learn to be responsible, first, in his/her attitude and then in behavior. The attitude is one of “the buck stops with me” instead of blaming, making excuses, and



Birthday fairy strikes when least expected... GOTCHA!

justifying actions. With practice, actions flow from this attitude. After only two months of applying the Agreement System students are using the language around the 4 R's to engage in more productive conversations around many issues—some of them quite difficult. I am very proud of our students, staff and community for embracing the Agreement System as a key aspect of our school.

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I will continue to write about the Agreement System future issues of our newsletters. If you would like to have a 4 R's conversation, please join me and perhaps others in the library for an informal chat on Thursday, Nov 3rd, at 8:45 or 2:15pm or on Thursday, November 10th at 8:45 or 2:25 pm or by appointment.

I wanted to thank the Student Council officers, Colin, Alex and Gavin, the entire 7th grade class, the parent committee support, drivers and Debbie McAfee for her home and endless support in creating an amazing student planned and led overnight retreat. It was an inspirational example of what can happen when adults trust the intrinsic motivation and ability of our students.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our first Student Council sponsored Halloween Day event, October 31st or first trimester culmination on Wednesday, November 16th.

In deep Gratitude, as the days become shorter may the light shine bright for all of us.

-Goldie

Juggling Club

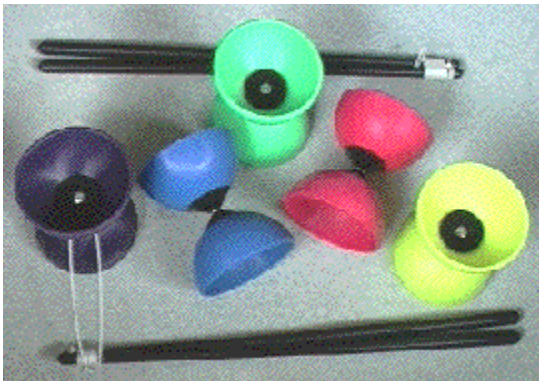
Juggling Club is having a wonderful time!!! Today I looked around and saw balls flying, clubs spinning, poi swinging, diabolos.....diabolo-ing, rolla-bollas rolling and lots of smiles as new tricks were learned, old ones mastered and fun being had! How great is THAT?

The kids are working hard and sticking to their guns, learning new stunts and working on things they already "sort of knew" how to do.

If we have any requests, it would be for any juggling equipment the kids are interested in! Diabolos are particularly popular, they are a great tool for learning coordination and object manipulation. If anyone has any extra just laying around...

send them in on Wednesday and we'll put them to work!!

- Alex



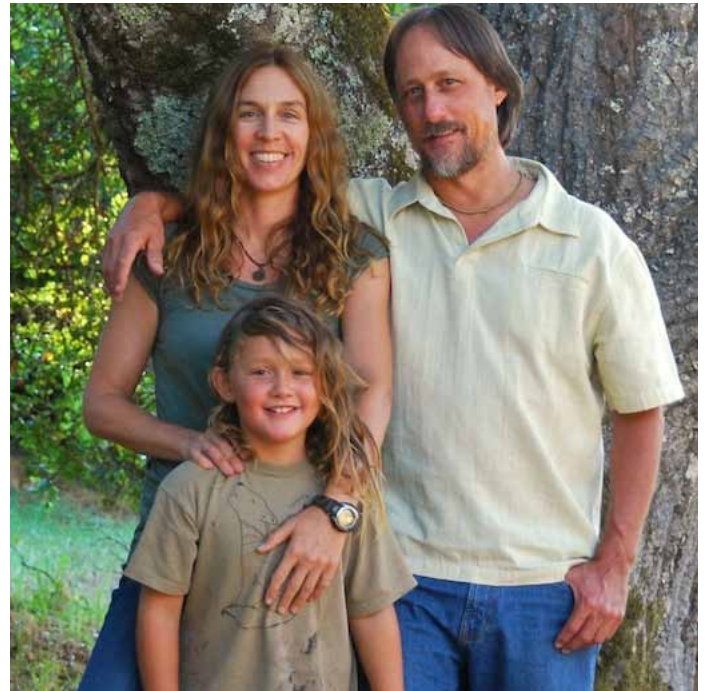
Welcome to our New Student Teacher!

Some of us ex-Willow Springers have the distinct pleasure of knowing Kendall and her son Kelsey - and can attest that she will be a tremendous addition to our school!

Kendall Dunnigan is an ecologist, community organizer, and educator. She has over fifteen years of experience teaching ecological literacy and facilitating community environmental change. Her teaching has focused on life sciences, environmental sustainability, ecological land management, school and community gardens, environmental art, applied math, and skill building for democratic engagement. She has worked as a youth outdoor environmental educator at Walker Creek Ranch and Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center. She has taught math and science with schools such as Casa Grande High School, Salmon Creek Elementary, and PineCrest Elementary. Kendall is currently pursuing her multiple subject teaching credential and will be student teaching in the 5/6th classroom over the next trimester. She lives at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center with her husband, Dave, and son, Kelsey. When they are not gardening, they are exploring the rivers of North America.

Kendall can be contacted at:

kdunnigan.reachschool@gmail.com.



4th Grade Field Trip to the Sonoma Mission

I feel fortunate to have had the chance to help our 4th grade students experience Mission Sonoma. Though a shower or two severely dampened the tortilla flour, the weather didn't slow the kids down at all as they worked through the different stations. The students who came through my spinning station got to work with wool sheared from sheep at the Petaluma Adobe; since they had been spinning with drop spindles in class, many of them were able to jump right in. The candle making seemed to be the most popular station and yielded some impressively long tapers—particularly the monsters produced by Julian and Galen. I especially enjoyed the day for the memories it brought back of my own 4th grade visit to the Petaluma Adobe, with many of the same activities. Being able to try out the daily activities within the historic buildings makes history come alive in a way that is hard to match in the classroom.

- Geoffrey Skinner (and thanks to Mary Kraybill for the great pictures!!)



5/6th Grades Introduction to Paleo Technology

Tamara Wilder gave the fifth and sixth grade classes a brief introduction to and demonstrations about Paleo Technology, the first techniques utilized by humans with materials found in their environment to assist them in their comfort and survival. Then the class had a chance to practice various techniques. Included were stringmaking using the native plant Dogbane, firemaking using friction with a wooden handrill kit, grinding and drilling beads made from soapstone and the native Ghost Pine nuts to hang on the string they twisted together.

A big attraction was the hunting tools target practice. There were different areas to practice using rabbitsticks, the oldest and most pandemic tool, handspears, one of the most basic hunting tools, and spear-throwers used to hunt large animals at the end of the ice age. Tamara is an amazing resource for bringing this history alive for kids.

- Laura Davison (and thanks to Joan Cathcart for the wonderful photos!)





REACH School Halloween Festivities

October 26-27:

- Bring your decorated (not carved) pumpkin to the school library to enter it into the Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

October 31st, 11:30 -1:20

- Fun Booths in the Library!
- Music and Dancing!
- Halloween Costume Contest!
Categories: *1st Place,
*Scariest, *Funniest,
*Coolest & *Most Original

Donations Needed:

- Decorations
- \$\$\$
- Healthy Food Platters

This event is hosted by the 7th Grade
“Fun Events” Leadership group.

Check out this great event by
Goldie’s partner, Jeffrey Weiss!
To be held
Friday, November 18th
7-8:30pm at the
REACH School Library.
More info coming!

Dear families,

We still have a couple of places in our ongoing Maiden Spirit circle for 9-10 year old girls starting in November. In our creative program girls are encouraged to access and express intuition, develop good communication skills and learn important facts and wisdom about the journey into young womanhood. *See flyer pg. 13.*

Check us out at:

www.maidenspirit.com

or call Pamela Wirth at 707-364 6484

- Pamela

Promoting Community Through The Creation Of-

Mi School Cafe Sharing **Music** and **Ideas** From Around The World

Using digital internet projection
and quality sound suitable
for group enjoyment

Creating Community By Sharing Together
Content On The Internet Along With
Ideas and Performances
From The Students, Parents,
And Staff Of Our School

Examples of Interesting Web Sites:

Ted.org Youtube.com Aspen Ideas Festival aifestival.org
ScienceFriday and > 1,000,000 others

Total Program & Administration
to be provided at no cost by

Jeffrey Weiss, MA Education
707.484.4685

THE REACH COMMUNITY PRESENTS...
FAMIGLIA ITALIANO DINNER
&
TALENT SHOW
FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27TH, 5:00 - 8:00PM

SEBASTOPOL GRANGE HALL~ HWY 12

TALENT SHOW BEGINS AT 6:30!



THREE COURSE DINNER

FEATURING ITALIAN CHEF ANTONIO FOGGETTI

— PRIMO PIATTO : RISOTTO E PASTA

— SECONDO PIATTO: CARNE E PIATTI VEGETARIANI

— TERZO PIATTO: INSALATE

CAFFÈ



TALENTED FOLKS OF ALL AGES

MUST SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE WITH ALEX

TO BE IN THE STAGE LINE-UP!

— 327~8242 —



TICKETS

— ADULTS \$20.00 IN ADVANCE OR \$30.00 DOOR

— KIDS {UNDER 12} \$10:00 IN ADVANCE OR \$15.00 DOOR

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH OCT 25TH
AT THE REACH SCHOOL OFFICE ~ 7285 HAYDEN AVE ~ SEBASTOPOL, CA



Sebastopol Grange presents
West County Crafters 2011
Holiday Gift Fair and Benefit

Saturday, Nov. 19th

(before Thanksgiving)

11 am - 4 pm

Sebastopol Grange Hall

6000 Sebastopol Road/Hwy 12

(lots of easy free parking)

Join us for merriment as we create and support our local economy. Our 10th annual benefit raffle of fabulous hand-made goodie-filled gift baskets will go to The YWCA of Sonoma County. Learn more about the Sebastopol Grange at this Family Friendly Event!

Contacts: Laura Shafer les@linedry.com Ann Austin 707 695-3989

The REACH School will have a fundraising table at this Craft Fair!!!!

Can you contribute some handmade crafts or gift foods to sell and help our school raise money for our music program and other activities? Now is the time to get your items ready. Laura Shafer will be running the table and can answer your questions at 823-5421 or the above email.

Hope you all will contribute and invite your friends to come and shop. It is a fun event for all our community.



"Fun! Inspiring! A beautiful way of learning more about yourself!" ~ Isabella, 13
 "... has provided a beautiful container for my child to begin to look inward, to know herself, to value being a girl, and to begin to discover support within and without to cultivate self-love. It's value and richness is profound and beyond words." ~ Jill Goldreyer

"Maiden Spirit has allowed me to see myself for who I am. It is hard to see my life now without Maiden Spirit."
 ~ Cloe, 13

"... is fun and an amazing experience. It is empowering and I think all girls should get a chance to go to Maiden Spirit." Sofia, 13

"Fun working together and having the feeling that you are doing something important together as a group."
 ~ Molly, 13



MAIDEN SPIRIT 2011/12

Ongoing program November through May in Sebastopol, CA

Now enrolling year 1 program (9-10yrs).
 Girls meet with mentors 1 Saturday per month for 3hrs.
maidenspiritproject@gmail.com
 Pamela Wirth 707-364 6484

Maiden Spirit is a fun experiential curriculum for 9-14 year old girls preparing to successfully navigate through adolescence with radiant self esteem and a strong sense of self.

* wisdom teachings * guided meditations * creative art projects * parent council * songs & stories * celebrated rites of passage *

www.maidenspirit.com