

# REACH

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

Monday, October 15, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

## Attention Drivers and Parents

It is necessary to cancel clubs for Friday, Oct. 19, because next week is Spirit Week all week and there is a big assembly on Friday, Oct. 19. We let our leadership and decisions classes wrestle with the decision Wednesday, that's 7th and 8th grade students, and they came to the conclusion it would be best to cancel clubs for one day and support the school event. We will extend clubs one day longer to the Friday after Thanksgiving break, which is November 30. —*Nancy Higham*

## Monthly Parent Meeting

The RPF will hold our monthly parent meeting on Thursday, October 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Brook Haven Library. This month we will all have the opportunity to find out about social skills our students are learning, and learn some life and parenting skills ourselves! This is also the time for our parent community to get up to date on administrative matters. The eighth grade class will bring snacks, so bring your own cup. —*Laura Goldenberg, RPF Parent Relations*

## Winter Social Date Change

This year's Winter Social has a date change. So scratch off your calendar the old date of December 14th and change it to November 30th. The Brook Haven winter band concert is planned for December 14 which would have been in conflict with our event. We wanted to make sure that most of our parent body could make the parent social so we switched the date. We will keep reminding you of this date change and encourage everyone to attend this wonderful event that will give us an opportunity to connect with each other while having great fun. See you there!

## RPF Meetings Wrapped-Up

**Meeting with Teachers:** On October 02, the RPF Executive Board and Nancy Higham met with our teachers. This was an opportunity to share in greater depth the REACH philosophy, vision and mission, and was in many ways similar to the orientation we offer for new Board members. The teachers were very receptive, and excited to be invested partners in the process of developing the program. They had lots of questions about what the RPF Board is, and how everyone can work together. The teachers would also like to be a part of the interviewing committees for new students. This was a great opportunity for open communication, as teachers continue to understand and become an integral part of this remarkable community.

**Curriculum:** One and a half months into the school year, we are determining a need to fine tune the curriculum. Since there are start up costs and we don't have a full enrollment yet, there are also financial considerations that are factors in curriculum issues. We decided to convene a curriculum committee to address some of these issues. Nancy



[www.reach-program.com](http://www.reach-program.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

**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.

**Fri. Oct. 19**

No clubs  
School dance

**Tues. Oct. 30**

2:00 DISMISSAL FOR ALL STUDENTS

**Tues. Oct. 30**

Public Relations Committee  
6:30 Brook Haven library

**Thurs. Nov. 1**

Student holiday

**Fri. Nov. 2**

Parent coffee before school  
Rm. 9 if wet or cold

**Wed. Nov. 7**

Parent chat led by Laura Goldenberg 8:00 a.m.  
In Rm. 9 - ask any questions

**Wed. Nov. 7**

RPF Board mtg 6:30  
Brook Haven library

and eight parents who represented all the classes met last Monday to brainstorm ideas. One of the main areas of focus was utilizing zero period more effectively. For five weeks we are offering tutoring for all 6, 7 and 8th grade students who need it in all four subject areas. Steph and Claudia will each be available on Thursday or Friday for zero period. For 7th and 8th grade students who are not in advanced band, there will be a choice of a film/lit class or drama class three mornings a week and a computer class two mornings a week. Sixth grade will offer Spanish two mornings a week and art enrichment two additional mornings. Other enrichment activities are continuing such as John Shillington's drama to 6th grade, and closer to the Ashland trip, a class to prepare the 7th grade. Sarah Voo-riehs and Georgia Churchill are continuing to offer drama to the 4/5 grade, art on Tuesday mornings, a science lab with Magi Discoe, and for those students not in beginning band, musicality with Spencer Burroughs. All four classes have poetry twice a month with Gwynn O'Gara. We are revamping the Spanish program, and will be addressing the differing competence levels of our students as we develop the program in the future.

**Leadership and Decisions Classes:** Janny Tansil presented a real life dilemma to the 8th grade decisions class. Do we continue the Friday Clubs as scheduled this fall or do we adjust the dates to incorporate the Brook Haven Spirit Week assembly next Friday, the 18th? The students had a lively discussion and a vote to extend the date for Friday Clubs to the last Friday in November, and have Reach students attend the Brook Haven Assembly, as they felt that Reach is part of Brook Haven.

**Volunteer Needs:** We still need a Volunteer Coordinator. Many parents are stepping into many of the needs, but we need to coordinate the needs. We will bring this up at the parent meeting with our current volunteer needs. We now have class parents for 4/5, 6, and 7th grades and tentative class parents for the 8th grade.

**Program Director's job** description and draft work-plan: Julie Kawahara is setting up roles and duties for the major functions of the program, so there is a structure and history to support the program as parents leave and new parents (and teachers... and districts) become more involved. She passed out the REACH Program Director Job Description as well as a Director Work Plan.

**Meeting with Superintendent:** Several RPF Board Members and Nancy met with David Wheeler to discuss fingerprinting for overnight chaperones and the organizational structure. David will share some things at the next parent meeting.

**Special Events:** The date for the Winter Social in December conflicted with a school band concert, so it was changed to November 30th. Details will be forthcoming.

**Parent Relations:** The next Parent Meeting will be educational and will focus on skills building for students, and skills building for parents. A former REACH parent, Karen Short, will make a short presentation regarding the Empower program. She was trained in the program four years ago.

**Financial Report:** Judi Scherrer presented a preliminary budget with anticipated income and expenditures. She is still working with it, and hopes to be ready to present it at the November Parent meeting. She is also hoping that a parent will volunteer to be the Scrip Coordinator, as e-scrip, and the community smart card are such great and easy ways to raise money for REACH. Again, more on this at the parent meeting.

**Community Relations:** SEF hosted a luncheon and Nancy represented the REACH program to the 12 new parent volunteers for the district.

## Do it Yourself—Stop Junk Mail



The volume of paper junk mail sent each year in the USA is staggering. • The average person gets 1 personal letter each week, and 11 pieces of junk mail. • Each person will receive almost 560 pieces of junk mail this year--that's 4.5 million tons of junk mail produced each year! • 44% of all junk mail is thrown in the trash, unopened and unread. • Approximately 40% of the solid waste in landfills is paper and paper-board waste; by the year 2010, it is predicted to make up about 48%. • 100 million trees are ground up each year to produce junk mail. The world's forests (and the critters that live in them) are feeling the strain. According to World Watch Institute, 80% of all natural forests in the world have vanished, at the same time that up to 50% of all landfill waste is wood and paper. Junk mail transforms standing forests into landfill waste. Even if you recycle junk mail, there are still huge environmental costs such as ink, the energy to produce and deliver it, and forest loss. With just a few minutes of your time, you can immediately take the following actions to dramatically reduce the junk mail you receive, and thereby reduce your impact on the earth. Taking the first four steps alone will reduce your junk mail load by up to 80% within six months. Additional steps are provided that will reduce your load even further.

Here is the link: <http://www.sustainablemillvalley.org/stop-junk-mail.pdf>

# Local School Gets A Taste of Shakespeare

On Friday, September 28, 7th and 8th graders from Sebastopol's own REACH magnet program left school and headed south to Dominican College to see Shakespeare's epic play, King Henry 14, Part One.

It was a 45 minute drive to the college. Some kids hated the ride. "It was boring and quiet," says 8th grader, Emily Lucia, of the ride. Others enjoyed it. Fellow 8th grader, Xandra Slowley says, "It was an awesome ride filled with lots of embarrassing moments." Finally they reached their destination.

The kids stepped out of their chaperone's cars and into the cloudy parking lot. They walked for a few minutes and soon arrived at the theater. Then they waited outside for awhile, talking and listening to pickup lines 8th grader, Shelby Tansil, found on the internet. After a few laughs and not to ever be repeated conversations, the kids filed into the theater. Unfortunately for Ms. Tansil, who didn't know there was line for cushions, the short walk involved yelling from a scary guy about waiting in lines.

Once in the theater most kids tested out the cushions. "They hurt my butt! Commented 7th grader, Colette Zeponi about the cushions. Almost everyone thought the cushions were bad. Some, like bad boy 8th grader, Thor Nolan, even swiped a few to make them actually helpful.

Right after a trip to the snack bar the play began. "It was confusing, but at the same time, brilliant! Says 7th grader Becca Graff. The play was funny and interesting with some great speeches. It made the kids laugh a lot, but it was also pretty confusing for most of them. The Shakespearean language made it much easier for the adults to understand than the youngsters.

After the play, a few of the actors came out to answer questions. The 8th grade girls were VERY happy to see

Poins among them. "He is the hottest guy alive!" states 8th grader, Lily Simon, dreamily. The kids also learned some interesting facts from their questions. "Gilmore Girls" fan and 8th grader, Linnea Nierenberg, was super excited to learn that the jolly Falstaff was in one of the newer episodes of the show.

Eventually they ran out of time for questions and it was time to go back to school. They walked back to the parking lot and left in their cars. Poor Emily Lucia had an even worse time in the car on the way back, due to a creepy movie and a boy who talked along with it.

In 45 minutes time they were back at school. It was a great way to spend the day and I'm sure the kids had a lot more fun learning this way than sitting in a classroom and reading from a textbook.

— Priscilla Peabody Plumbhead aka Shelby Tansil



Grant Goodman as Prince Hal  
and Stephen Reynolds as Falstaff

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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](http://www.chopsonline.com). Chops Teen Club, 509 Adams St, Santa Rosa (North Bay), 707.284.2467.

### 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.