

REACH

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

Monday, October 29, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Parent Dialogue/Brainstorming Meeting

Monday Night 6:30, Brook Haven Library

In response to the expressed desire of parents to have the opportunity to dialogue about the REACH program and to share ideas, give constructive feedback, and ask questions, a meeting has been scheduled for this Monday night from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Every family will want to have one representative at the meeting. J.T. O'Neill, the school counselor, will lead and help organize the meeting, and record the ideas presented.

The intention is to have open communication in constructive ways. We have parents with many resources and look forward to the richness this dialogue can bring.

We hope you can join us.— *Laura Goldenberg*

Public Relations Meeting Changed

In order to not conflict with the important Monday Parent meeting, the Public Relations meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 pm in the Brook Haven library. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on the enrollment process and advertising for the program, which need to be ready to go by the end of December. We need parents with graphic skills, writing skills, and general interest in how the process works to attract students and families who will support the mission and vision of this program.

— *Nancy Higham*

New Teacher Added in 6th & 7th Science Lab

George Macros has agreed to join Ms. Dalessio on Tuesdays for two periods of science in the lab for 6th and 7th graders. George is a science teacher with a major in Biology, who has taught high school in New York State and has moved here recently. His regular work is as a farmer in Bodega on Earthworker Farm, which produces sustainable, ecological, hand-grown produce. He brings knowledge and experience to providing students with experiences in lab activities and setting up centers. He and Nancy spent an hour on Friday cleaning up the lab and organizing the counters and newly arrived boxed materials

for easier access. There is still work to be done in labeling and making all the storage more efficient. George brings enthusiasm to the Tuesday science scene.— *Nancy Higham*

Pottery Club Plays in the Mud

I just returned from driving a group to Friday club pottery class at Cheryl Constantini's house and pottery studio. Not only do I consider it a great honor for anyone to be in Cheryl and Mikio's studio, but our kids get exposure to Cheryl who is a professional, master potter. She is teaching them all kinds of hand build-



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Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 30-Nov 2
1:30 p.m. dismissal for all students

Mon. Oct. 29
6:30 Parent Meeting
Brook Haven library

Tues. Oct. 30
Public Relations Committee
6:30 Brook Haven library
Rescheduled for Nov. 6

Wed. Oct. 31
Lunchtime costume contest
No masks

Thurs. Nov. 1
Student holiday

Fri. Nov. 2
Parent coffee before school
Rm. 9 if wet or cold

Tues. Nov. 6
6:30 PR meeting
Brook Haven library

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

Mon. Nov. 11
School holiday



ing techniques as well as how to work on the wheel.

One of the great things about volunteering today was that I got to see my son work

on the wheel for his very first time and make his first pots. That was priceless and something I will never forget.

On the way home we were all re-energized from being with Cheryl in her special country studio. Steven Akers mentioned he really likes the calmness of the place. Ty Bellfy, Teshieia Van der Horst, and Xandra Slowley all got to learn the wheel today. It was unanimous how much they liked it. They said it was hard yet so much fun to do. Ty said, "Cheryl is the best pottery teacher. Hooray for Cheryl." I say hooray for all of us that left the class smiling and a lot happier, as well as more centered and calm than when we arrived. – *Carolyn Bellfy, 4th grade mom*

I really have a great time when I go to Cheryl's Pottery class. I look forward to going all week long. I am learning all of the different techniques of making pots. My favorite thing to do is work with the pottery wheel. It is so fun to shape the wet cold clay. I feel very honored to work with such a great artist." – *Tesheia van der Horst, 5th grade*

Analy Band Wagon Festival

The Brook Haven Advanced band participated in the 12th annual Analy Band Wagon Fall Festival last Friday. From all reports, it was a really fun event and a wonderful chance for the students to play in front of a large audience.

Schools from Sonoma, Marin and Solano counties played classical music for 20 minutes.

Brook Haven Band played Solvonic Dance 8 by Dvorak and Celtic Air and Dance arranged by Michael Sweeny.

There are a number of REACH students in Advanced band including Shelby Triplett who you can see playing flute in the photo below.



Ann Buller's Corner

A SNAVAG Award



I got up early Sunday morning to clean the kitchen before my family came down for breakfast and as I was washing some dishes someone's name popped into my head. Many thoughts go through my head during the day, sort of like a stream or creek that never stops flowing. However if a name pops in like that and it is not related to anything else, I know it is important. The message was sit down and give this person a SNAVAG award.

This week's award goes to JUDY SCHERRER! Judy gets this award for several reasons and maybe for reasons that I am not even aware of, which is probably the case.

How many of you could spend countless hours doing something that is not very visible or colorful or pretty? Add to that thought, doing something having to do with numbers! Numbers that others want, numbers that don't fit together easily, numbers that are scrutinized by the much higher-ups, numbers that are being pulled from every direction, numbers that have to be sought out, tracked down, extracted from, numbers that are elusive and numbers that might make you feel discouraged? Complicate that with responsibility and the realization that those numbers represent money! Picture yourself with the responsibility of holding the financial picture together for a large group of people who are invested in a program for their children! And you have to make it work! Could you do this?

Then of course there is always the down side. How do you tell the creative ones that it just isn't possible to do something really fun and interesting for the kids, at least not yet, as there might not be enough funds for that? Of course you'd also have to be a type of teacher, explaining patiently to board members and others what the numbers mean while providing options for them to agree or vote on.

Could you hold all of this as well as the idea that you are helping to create something creative and wonderful, the manifestation of all of your effort into something gorgeous and heartwarming and soul-inspiring (for the children)? Judy continues to pour her heart and soul into looking after REACH's finances even after last year's very tumultuous and stressful experience.

So, the next time you see Judy thank her from the bottom of your heart, congratulate her on her new award, support her with your on-time-full-donation and make her smile!

A SNAVAG award is given to those individuals who have given freely of themselves to the REACH program above and beyond the call of duty.

"SITUATION - NORMAL - ALL - VOLUNTEERS - ARE - GREAT!" – *Ann Buller*