

REACH

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

Friday, October 24, 2008

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Interview with Brook Haven Counselor J.T. O'Neill

By 6th graders Emily Gaynor and Milla Kapur

Q: We know you were previously a teacher. What made you decide to become a school counselor instead?

A: I taught in middle school and realized that the kids in these grades have a lot of issues that block them from schoolwork and other activities. So I really wanted to help them figure out some ways to change that.

Q: How long were you a teacher and how long have you been a counselor?

A: I was a teacher for fifteen years and a counselor for nine, so far. I hope to keep going!

Q: What grades did you teach?

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www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Wed. October 29
All-REACH end of unit project celebration, 1:30

Thurs. October 30
Parent Conferences/Early Release, 1:30

Fri. October 31
Parent Conferences/Early Release, 1:30

Wed. November 5
Fall Music Recital

Fri. November 7
Music Assembly All School, 2:00

Mon. November 10
No School, Staff In-Service

Tues. November 11
No School, Veterans' Day

Wed. November 12
REACH Parent Foundation Meeting, 6:30pm

Tues. November 25
REACH Thanksgiving Celebration, All grades

Wed. - Fri. November 26-28
No School, Thanksgiving

Mon. December 1
WFC *Romeo and Juliet*, 7th Grade

Earn more scrip dollars for REACH...

when doing your holiday shopping. Macy's is offering great discounts this season and it's an easy way to fundraise for our school. Just remember to register your card first!

For you online shoppers and those looking for gift cards check out the scrip website at: www.escrip.com. There's even a free program to download that automatically registers your credit cards. Please contact me if you need help after you've browsed the participating stores. Also, remember to get family and friends involved. There are hundreds of participating merchants and each time anyone shops with them they will give back a percentage to our school.

With the holidays upon us, take a moment to get your Safeway, Macy's and credit cards registered. Together, we can earn \$\$\$ to fund the many wonderful programs that REACH makes available to our kids.

Thank you, Sherry Fader, Scrip Coordinator (707) 829-5995

A: Sixth, seventh and eighth grade social studies and language arts. I also taught K-2 grade. For some reason I feel connected and LOVE middle school kids.

Q: What grades have you worked with as a counselor?

A: Middle school and high school.

Q: What school did you teach at?

A: I taught at Parkside, Brook Haven and a private school called Notre Dame.

Q: Are there any bad things about being a counselor, if so what?

A: It's hard because I can't fix some of the problems, and I go home feeling sad.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a counselor?

A: The kids. I Love listening and hanging out with middle schoolers.

Q: Any last words?

A: I think I have the best job in the whole school district. Brook Haven School ROCKS!!!

Local Sculptor Charles Churchill Teaches REACH Kids Abstract Assemblage

Thoughts from Fall Sculpting Club Teacher, Charles Churchill ...



“There is freedom in making assemblage; with going out of the lines. The kids are mixed media assemblage workers. The entire discipline of assemblage, working in the abstract, trains the mind to work in the abstract. It is the process of putting shapes together to make entirely new shapes.”

“Most things since birth are very ordered and abstract technique requires each kid to think for themselves. I love

watching their minds change, it happens right away if they are ready for it. A self-portrait gives kids a taste of

their own identity and reinforces who they are—more of themselves. This is the philosophy behind what I do. The light-heartedness of sculpture teaches more about beauty and humor than toys do. The practical application of what I teach is hand eye coordination. The sweetness of the work is that there are no hard fast rules; the only thing that I ask is good craftsmanship. I tell them that the meaning of the work and the titles will come later. It's important to think with the hands, not just the mind, to have the ability to think on a lot of different levels. Be true to what your muse tells you to do. Making an abstract sculpture is as good a way as any to get in touch with your muse, yet it is also the foundation for every other art medium in the sense that they are most all additive forms.”



The boxed in piece (left), features an authentic, recent post-crash, motorcycle timing case that once belonged to Charles. This is just one of the many fascinating re-purposed items in Charles' collection of goods that he brings in to share with the kids.



Guess what the base of this piece was in its former life?

You can see ongoing, collage, wood assemblages, mixed media and light sculptures by Charles Churchill at:

Abstract Blackbird Gallery
12908 Graton Rd, Sebastopol
707.874.1267

Sat-Sun, noon to 4:30, and by appointment.

ZINE Update

By Tricia Watts

Sixth and seventh grade students are working hard to complete their very first ZINE by the end of this month. You may have seen a few circulating at school. They are a mere 2.5 X 4" in size and are jam-packed with crossword puzzles, drawings, poems, interviews, articles, video/movie recommendations and reviews, and other "stuff." Students were encouraged to invite their friends to make contributions, acting in the role of editor of their own magazine. Most of the original artwork is 8 1/2 X 11" and photocopied, reduced to 32%. As each student completes their ZINE, they



they are given a large envelope with all the originals. So, if parents want to make color copies for family members, ask the students. In

the coming weeks, before the end of this trimester, we will begin work on similar content for the REACH year-book!



Breakfast Eaters Do Better In School

Research has shown that eating a healthy breakfast enhances kids' brain function and prevents the "midmorning energy crash". Good choices are:

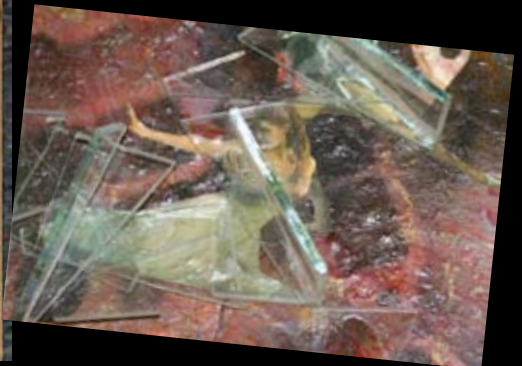
Eggs: contain Choline which is essential for the creation of memory stem cells, formed deep within our brains. (Choline is also found in nuts if eggs are not on your diet).

Oatmeal: A Tufts University study found that when kids were given a choice between cold cereal, oatmeal or no breakfast, the oatmeal eaters performed "significantly better on spatial-memory tasks" (map reading). Researchers believe that oatmeal is high in fiber which digests slowly – providing kids with a steady stream of energy.

Ideas that your child might like: Scrambled eggs on top of a bagel or yogurt sprinkled with blueberries and nuts. Even kids who hate eggs will go for French toast. Choose foods high in fiber, complex carbohydrates and protein.

Eat Well, Sherry Fader

More student sculptures, courtesy of Rachelle Steele



Westminster Woods, courtesy of Rachelle Steele

