

REACH

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

Monday, November 11, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Parent Meeting Date Change

November's Parent Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday night due to band concert on Thursday night. The meeting on diversity at REACH will be folded into the parent meeting breakouts.

Parent meetings are a great way to socialize with other parents and have input regarding REACH policies. Please mark Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 Brook Haven library on your calendar. Childcare provided. \$5 gets pizza, homework help, and games...Such a deal!.

R.S.V.P. to Lisa Doyle marchant63@hotmail.com so we order the right amount of food—*Nancy Higham*

Red Tickets: the Inside Scoop

I was visiting with a couple of Magnet School parents the other day and realized that I needed to clarify the role of the “red tickets” at Brook Haven. These red tickets are just for fun. In fact, they are simply a means for adults on campus to connect in a positive way.

Kids so often are invisible in the world and the red tickets allow an exchange, an acknowledgement. Yes, they can be given for tasks completed (homework, litter clean up, kind works) but they can also be just for fun – that O’Neill shirt, that book you are reading, that cool lunch you are eating, that joke you told me. I often ask kids, “So what did you learn so far today?” and grace a response with a red ticket. The drawing on Friday morning adds a little fun to the week and might just be the thing that makes a student smile that day. Please come and talk to me if you would like further clarification.
– *JT, Brookhaven/REACH School Counselor*

We're Spicin' up Friday Afternoons!

Every Friday afternoon, students ranging from 4th through 8th grade drive to the Patty James Cooking School, next to Grateful Bagel. Lovely, generous parents drive us.



Patty has a big kitchen with many supplies and lots of equipment. Each week we have an ingredient of the week, a cooking skill, and a macronutrient. We learn the cooking skill, such as cutting onions, and we take notes and the facts on the macronutrient. When we cut the onions, we all cried, it was so traumatic!

Our homework is always

www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Wed. Nov. 14
Parent Meeting &
Diversity Meeting
Brook Haven Library
6:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 20
4th - 8th Thanksgiving feast
starting 4th period

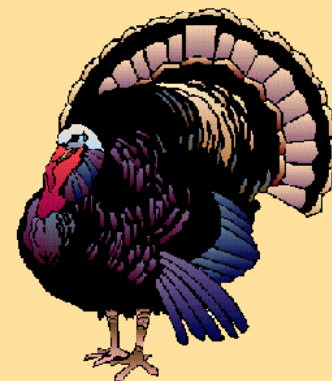
Wed. Nov. 28
RPF Board meeting, 6:30
Brook Haven Library

Fri. Nov. 30
Last meeting for clubs

Fri. Nov. 30
Parent Social &
Student Activity Night

Wed. Nov. 21
Thanksgiving Holiday begins

Thurs. Dec. 6
8th Grade Trip to
Madame Butterfly- evening



to make the dish during the week, or if you're unable to, some other dish. Patty likes to use organic and natural ingredients to make very healthy foods. For instance in the cookies, instead of using one cup sugar, she uses a half cup of sugar and a half cup of applesauce. They taste normal, but look a little more orange. So far we have made chicken tortilla soup, a spinach spread, a green apple salad, and basic cookies. Sometimes it's surprising how fast time goes by. I think it's a nice way to end the week by going off the campus and doing something fun, and not related to school. —*Linnea Nierenberg, 8th grade*

Teaching Science— A Magnetic Attraction

Is Pluto a planet or not? This is one of the many questions answered at the California Science Teachers Conference held in Long Beach last weekend. The conference is a place where science teachers from K-12 have an opportunity to develop and hone their teaching strategies and skills. The conference held lectures, seminars, and classes that teach and demonstrate how to instruct in everything from astronomy to zoology. This allows teachers opportunities to delve deeper into subject matter that they would like to know more about, or areas where they would like ideas on how to better instruct students.

My goal this year was to further develop my teaching strategies in physical science. I focused on California standards-based topics for 4th and 5th grades and how to make those learning areas meaningful and interesting.

“Dirty Little Secrets to Making the Physical Sciences

Fun and Easy” was the title of a mini-university course I took. The goal of the class was to help students learn key physical science content at appropriate cognitive levels. I learned hands-on ideas to use with content background to make them accessible to students. The class was an eye opener to the plethora of ways in which to teach physical science. The class also focused on Bloom's Taxonomy which states that there are several layers of learning; starting from knowledge and continuing through evaluation. As a new teacher, I use Bloom's often to determine where my students are on the learning curve. This class helped to demonstrate how easy it is to get kids comprehending, applying and synthesizing what they have learned.

Another course titled, “Creating Magnetic Demonstrations” used a variety of magnets to create unique demonstrations. We built magnetic devices that demonstrated how opposites attract and likes repel, how seemingly non-magnetic items can have magnetic pulls, and more. I came home with at least 14 different demonstrations

Overall, I was and am excited with the new information I came away with. I am thrilled to be back in the classroom where I can start putting some of my new knowledge to work. Although we won't be addressing physical science until after the winter break, I can begin to use other strategies I learned to develop students' vocabulary, understanding and real-life applications. It was a little overwhelming knowing the immense amount of time it takes to prep some of the activities and labs, but we are fortunate to have Magi Discoe added to our enrichment track as a science specialist in room 10. This is also a call out to parents that would like to help with some preparations in the future. . . and no, Pluto is no longer considered a planet, but a dwarf planet is an appropriate term to use as an identifier. www.cascience.org/Keynotes.htm.

—*Melissa Hall*



REACH Gymnast Scores Tops

At the Northern California Level 5 Gymnastics “Zone” Championships held in Kentfield last Sunday, new REACH 7th grader Angela Roze placed 1st on Bars, 1st on Vault, and 1st All Around in her age group, and qualified to compete in the State Championships to be held near Visalia on November 17th and 18th.

Gymnasts compete in four events, in the Olympic order: vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor exercise. They are judged by a team of two judges for each event, on a 10-point scale. The “All Around” score is a total of the scores on all four events. Gymnasts who attain an all around score of 32 at any meet during the regular meet season qualify to compete in the Zone Championships, and those who attain an all around score of 34 at the Zone Championships go on to the State Championships.

Angela moved over to REACH from SunRidge School on Halloween Day. She has been doing gymnastics since Kindergarten and trains 3 1/2 to 4 hours per night, three to four nights per week. Congratulations and welcome Angela!

Winter Social Update!



Three times a year REACH families gather together to connect as community. Mark your calendars for our Winter Social on Friday, November 30 from 7-10 pm at the Akers' home in Sebastopol.

All REACH parents are invited and joyfully encouraged to come join in on this fun and relaxing evening! To make it easier for you, the eighth grade is providing a wonderful child-care event/fundraiser ("Kids Night Out") during this time.

You will be receiving an official invitation in the mail, in our REACH newsletter and an invitation sent to you through your children with more detailed information. But please mark your calendars now for this great event! SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Art Zone

The latest from REACH artists!



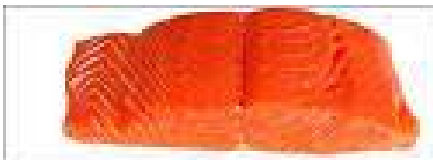
The Green Zone

The Monterey Bay Aquarium has created a "Seafood Watch" guide to the best and worst choices in seafood in the effort to promote awareness of the fact that some species are becoming endangered. Their recommended Best Choices are "abundant, well-managed and caught or farmed in environmentally friendly ways." Choices on this list include: Pacific Cod, Dungeness Crab, Pacific Halibut, Alaskan wild Salmon, Pink Shrimp from Oregon, farmed Tilapia, and Albacore Tuna (BC, US troll/pole).

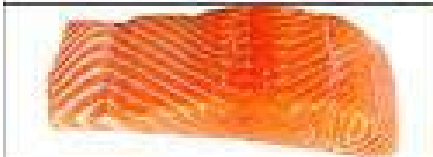
Items to avoid are "caught or farmed in ways that harm other marine life or the marine environment" This list includes Atlantic Cod, King Crab, Mahi Mahi, Orange Roughy, farmed Salmon, Albacore Tuna (longline), and imported Shrimp.

They also provide a Good Alternatives list, but provide a caution there are concerns with how some on this list are caught or farmed. See the following link to download the full 2007 Seafood Guide. http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/SeafoodWatch/web/sfw_regional.aspx – Diana Badger

Wild Caught Salmon



Farmed Salmon



RPF Board Meeting Recap

1. Board reviewed and approved October 3rd and 10th RPF Board meeting minutes.
2. Reviewed proposal to develop a coordinated child care alternative for use during REACH Parent meetings by potentially using Alumni or other older siblings. Lisa Doyle volunteered to further develop this concept and coordinate.
3. Reviewed list of outstanding equipment needs and services for the classrooms. Nancy has already purchased 4 pre-owned tables at Salmon Creek at a greatly reduced cost, but still needs more. Nancy will continue to list requirements in the newsletter.
4. Reviewed request to have the REACH 6th graders join the Regular Brookhaven 6th graders on the CAMP CAZ trip in May. It would be an additional cost. Agreed that we would not pursue as we would have to give up the Marin Headlands trip.
5. Reviewed concept to reduce clubs and thus cost savings, but decided not to pursue.
6. Revising volunteer schedule to help match the needs with the available volunteers at lunch.
7. Nancy reviewed proposals on how to get Spanish back in the program. Please indicate your interest in participating in the search or give ideas for shaping the Spanish curriculum to Nancy.
8. Nancy reviewed change in 4th/5th noon recess process. Will implement a change to have 4/5 go to the park without the 6th grade on Tuesday and Thursday and with the 6th on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
9. Discussed the process and communications for when new students join the program and existing student leave the program.
10. Nancy reviewed the REACH enrollment "packet" prototype that was prepared by Nancy Higham, Amy Koman, Cheryl Constantini and Diana Badger. Nancy will coordinate making this available by January in the front office to meet the needs of inquiring parents and enrollment for next year.
11. Nancy reviewed schedule for interviews and enrollment for the spring.
12. Nancy reviewed proposal for informational meetings for interested families for next year. Tentatively scheduled for the 3rd week in January.
13. Nancy handed out SUSD Board Policy 1240, covering Volunteer Assistance. Board will review to ensure compliance and methods for compliance.
14. Discussed notes from the Parent meeting of 10-29-07. Nancy has started reviewing some items from her notes with the teachers as appropriate. Laura Goldenberg will be using the information in future parent meetings.
15. Starting planning for getting a REACH Foundation Board survey out to all parents in January.
16. Judy Scherrer reviewed the budget. Bottom line is that the budget is still tight, but if we can maintain current rate of donations and keep expenditures in line with proposed amounts we should be able to carry out the plans for the year. Budget was passed. Judy will provide a brief overview at the next parent meeting.
17. Reviewed letter from State of California Dept of Justice regarding routine need to file certain documents regarding our non-profit status. Judy will coordinate our reply.
18. Discussed web site maintenance. Continuing to look at options to ensure good maintenance.
19. Winter social venue will be at Ann and Bill Akers' house. Communications will be going out.
20. Activity night for students during the winter social will be run by the 8th grade Decisions at the Park Side Multipurpose room.
21. Still looking for Scrip volunteer (one in the wings) and Volunteer coordinator (?)

Amateur Shutterbugs Wanted!

Whether you are assisting with an enrichment class, chaperoning a field trip or just hanging around observing a class, the newsletter and website want your photos. Send photos of artwork, classes, field trips or just goofy shots of REACH kids doing what they do best...being creative! Send your 72 dpi jpegs to amy@djunadesign.com.



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.