



RPF Board Update

Casey Morrigan - RPF Board Secretary

The new trimester has begun, and with it, a new cycle of enrichment classes and clubs for the students has started up. Thanks to Karen and Julie for such a seamless transition!

We have also begun work with the district in recruiting for the Director of Operations at the REACH School. While finances for public schools in California continue to be extraordinarily tight, the REACH School's finances for the next few years have been stabilized with federal charter grant funding (a one-time, three-year grant) as well as some private sector funds from the Springford Trust. This allows the School to recruit for a Director during these difficult times.

REACH is looking ahead to field trips in the spring (Ashland for 7/8 and some trips focusing on early American history for 4/5), and is beginning to plan the Unity Retreat for fall of 2010. Sixth grade can look forward to a trip customized to their curriculum as well; plans are underway.

Next board meeting is December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brook Haven Library. Parents are always welcome.

REACH Parent Holiday Social!

Friday, December 11, 7pm - 9:45pm

At the home of Scott & Kathleen Tuttle VanderHorst
9000 Barnett Valley Rd.

Join with friends old and new to celebrate the season. Bring a dish to share, beverage of your choice and your holiday spirit!

Grades 4,5,6 &8: Bring an entree

Grade 7: Bring a dessert

Please RSVP to: marchant63@hotmail.com

Kids Activity Night!

Happens concurrently as the social, and will be held on the same evening in the multipurpose room at Park Side School. Pre-registration is required, so please sign and return the permission form with the \$10 payment per child as soon as possible. The 8th graders have begun planning the food, games and movie entertainment, and are determined to make it a fun evening for everyone!

Mark Your Calendar

Thurs., Dec. 10

All Band Winter Concert 7pm

Friday, Dec. 11

REACH Holiday Social 7pm

Kids' Activity Night 6:45pm

Mon., Dec. 14

RPF Meeting, 6:30pm BH Library

Mon., Dec. 21 - Mon., Jan. 3

NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Mon., Jan. 4

School resumes

Wed., Jan. 13

New Parent Info Night

Mon., Jan. 18

No School - MLK Holiday

Sun., Jan. 24

New enrollment applications due

Mon., Jan 25

RPF Board meeting, 6:30pm BH Library



7th Graders at Nordquist

Take A Hike!

-Fred Poulos

When the newsletter committee first met, the subject of affordable family activities arose. In that spirit my first contribution promoted bicycling as a worthwhile, low cost family activity. I praised the variety and quality of family bicycling options available virtually outside our front doors, regardless of where you live in this extraordinary county. If we have more of anything here than we do bike trails it's hiking trails.

We have almost perfectly flat trails like the Kortum Trail that runs along the bluffs between Shell Beach and Goat Rock.

www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/sonomabeach.html

Bodega Head has a new trail that switchbacks up the hill through the deer herds. Lazy and lovely.

www.albionmonitor.com/12-3-95/bodegahead.html

If you're looking for something a bit more aggressive but still family friendly I'd suggest the Pomo Canyon Trail between Pomo Canyon and Shell beach.

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2002/07/04/SP35926.DTL

It's about 2.5 mi. each way and we first did the round trip hike when our daughter was 4 years old. The Pomo Canyon Campground is currently closed but you can still park outside the gate and walk in to the trailhead.

Just a bit further afield is the incredible variety of Point Reyes which never fails to satisfy and is only 45 min. from Sebastopol.

www.nps.gov/pore/index.htm

Each and every one of these suggestions offer spectacular wildlife viewing. On the Kortum trail we've encountered hawks, snakes, deer and badgers. On the Bodega Head trail two weeks ago, in addition to the deer, hawks and owls, we enjoyed sitting on the cliff and watching a pod of whales breaching and spouting a couple of hundred yards offshore (after which we went to the docks at Spud Point to buy the first live crabs of the season). If you hike the Tomales Point Trail at Point Reyes you'll find yourself literally in the midst of hundreds of Roosevelt Elk that make their home there. In the autumn you'll get

to hear and watch the clack clack clack of the bulls jousting with their horns in a bid to preside over a harem of the cows.

Armstrong Woods is always a "must see" when out of town visitors appear. It takes one's breath away to walk among these ancient giants, among what are some of the largest living creatures on earth.

www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=450

Ragle Park also has wonderful trails though the bottomlands and fields where there's no telling what one may encounter.

I believe the lesson here is that in Sonoma County even a walk in park can be a wild adventure, which is one of the reasons we choose to live here. So be safe, carry lots of water, sunscreen and snacks. Don't spread out too far apart. You'll have a great time.



Scenes from the 7/8
Culmination skits
about life in Medieval
Europe

All photos
courtesy of
Diana Badger

Two REACH Coat Drives!

Cleaning Out Your Closets? Donate Your Warm Coats to a Great Cause!

I am studying for my Bat Mitzvah this coming May, and as part of my program I must do community service. I have decided to help out at Elisha's Pantry in Santa Rosa, which helps those in need by supplying them with food and, in the winter months, warm clothing. I have been collecting clothing and warm jackets for them, and because it is so cold out, all of the coats and jackets are being taken. If you are cleaning out your closet and you have warm coats, jackets, blankets, or rain gear that you no longer wear or are in need of, please put them in the box in the Spanish room (#11).

The clothing drive is only continuing on for two more weeks, so if you could get the donations in by Wednesday 12/16, that would be great. All donations are welcome.

Sincerely,

Sophie, 7th Grade

Hello REACH Families,

I am organizing a school wide, Winter Coat Drive, to be donated to TLC Child and Family Services, here in Sebastopol. Our goal is collect 100 gently used coats by December 16th, for delivery in conjunction with a toy distribution to 25 adolescent residents and 75 foster kids in need around the area.

What I'd like... is to have a handful of motivated, interested REACH kids join in. The commitment involved would be: one Friday lunch meeting, and one or two morning collection shifts, out in front of the school, approx 8:15am - 8:40 am. (REACH Students will need to ask their teachers for permission to be late, or perhaps work 1/2 shift.) We may also add on 3:00 shifts, which might be better suited to the REACH schedule.

This is in the spirit of friendship and unity for all of Brook Haven campus, as well as a fun and easy way to make a difference in someone's life.

Thanks all, Rachelle

PS I would LOVE to have a couple of parents help me out on "Jumbo-size Laundry Mat" day, Thursday December 17th. First who come begging, first served, or first to serve, as it were. I will be delivering the coats Friday, the 18th. Thank you.



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