

# REACH

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

Monday, December 10, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

## Dialogue With Teachers

As a result of the input that was received from the parents, four meetings with our magnet program teachers have been scheduled in January so mark your calendars now! These meetings will be in lieu of the January parent meeting.

The purpose of these meetings is to share ideas and information about our program between the parents and the teachers. Brookhaven School counselor J.T. O'Neill will chair the meetings and there will be an opportunity to look at the strengths of the program, what is working well, as well as at what areas need improvement. We will spend time listing suggestions and collecting ideas. Teachers will share their goals and expectations for students for the year.

The meetings have been divided up by grade level or subject matter so parents can decide which meeting to attend. The teachers will attend the meetings as scheduled below. You are welcome at any or all of the meetings. Remember, parental involvement is what makes this program truly rich, so please, make the time and plan to attend.

We hope to see you there!

**Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:00 p.m.**

**Rm. 10 4/5 meeting with Ms. Hall.**

**Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:15 p.m.**

**Rm. 13 6th grade meeting with Ms. Dalessio**

**Wednesday, Jan. 9, 6:00 p.m.**

**Rm. 13 Math meeting with Steph**

**Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:15 pm**

**Rm. 12 Social Studies, Lang. Arts with Ms. Jatton**



## A Mummer's Play

Please come see the 4/5 performance of *A Mummer's Play*. It is the culmination of the work the class has done with Sarah Voorhies and Georgia Churchill.. The students are very excited to share the play with you. The play lasts about 15 minutes and will be performed in the classroom, Room 10. There are two choices: Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 1:30 or Thursday, Dec. 13, at \*10:00 am. Also, by request we are planning to add an evening performance on Thursday at 5:00 pm. Actors need to be at school by 4:30 to get in their costumes – please contact Sarah Voorhees if your child can't make it! All are welcome to come to performances both days as the casts will change. The students have worked hard to put the play together, paint the scenery, and put together costumes themselves. There will also be other magnet students enjoying the performances.



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

## Mark Your Calendar

**Wed. Dec. 12**

RPF Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

Brook Haven library

**Wed. Dec. 12**

4/5 Play, *A Mummers Play*,  
1:30 p.m. (15 minutes)

**Thurs. Dec. 13**

4/5 Play, Time Change:  
10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
All are welcome.

**Thurs. Dec. 13**

6th grade presents  
The Phantom Tollbooth  
5:00 p.m. Drama Room  
(next to library)

**Fri. Dec. 14**

Brook Haven Band &  
Honor Choir Concert  
7 p.m. Brook Haven Gym

**Fri. Dec. 14**

4/5 Field Trip to Oakland  
Museum. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Teachers' e-mails should be working again. The County Schools office reports the computer server problems have been solved. Hooray!**

### A Visit to Digitopolis

The sixth grade class will perform the Phantom Tollbooth Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5:00 p.m in the drama room. Families and students are welcome to come and enjoy the result of the students' work with John

Shillington.

Please plan to come see the play and bring guests if you wish. The drama room is to the right of the library and opens to the front of the school.

### Winter Social Wrap-up

If you missed the REACH Winter Social, you missed a fabulous evening of great food and conversation. The beautiful artistic driftwood sculpture Tony made for the party will be donated to the school. Some parents had the idea to put it in one of the large planter spaces. Others thought we should auction it off and give the proceeds to REACH. When the auction idea came up, people started talking about having another party where we would either auction stuff off, have a white elephant sale or something of that sort to raise money in a fun way for the kids education.

Many plates and utensils were left over from the party that I would like to get back to the rightful owner.

If you know that you left your plates, bowls, etc., please come and get them. You can find them in Steph's room.

—Ann Akers

### Opera 101

Despite the rain last Thursday evening, there was a lot of anticipation in the air as the 8th grade class rolled down



*Nathan looking innocent right before he nodded off.*

101 to the War Memorial Opera House to see Puccini's famous opera, *Madama Butterfly*.

The heroine, Cio-Cio-San, eloquently sung by Marie Plette, finds herself faced with a dreadful choice: life without dignity or death with honor. *Madama Butterfly* has some of the most ar-

restingly beautiful music in all of opera.

Judging by the restlessness of the kids sitting next to me, an opera with more action and humor might have been more appropriate. But there can be no doubt that the incredible music, sets and costumes made a great first impression on the 8th graders. —Amy Koman

Last Friday we had our '1st Friday of the Month' coffee in Nancy's office. Where were you? I missed you! You did remember didn't you? If you forgot I will tell you one more time because I really did miss you! (I will take into account this time that the "busy level" has sky-rocketed because it is that time of year when our heads are just barely screwed on.) So, remember that the first Friday morning of each month, oh, around 8-ish (you can come early or a bit late if you need to) we provide coffee and goodies to eat, you bring your own homey cup, and we gab and have a few laughs to get our day started! It was really fun and joyful even though we missed you!



Thank you Bonnie for coming at seven in the morning to set up and start the coffee, lace tablecloth included, what a dear! And what would I have done without the outstretched arms of our own pottery making guru Cheryl (she, oh great one of the multitudes of ceramic cups finally brought her own!) to help me hold the box of Village Bakery pastries I brought along while I had to dash to find a key to open the door? And thank you Lisa for the very humorous e-mail about what you were going to bring – you definitely threw my husband for a loop with your threat to provide Ding-Dongs or You-Hoo's, but I knew you were joking as I flew out the door to be on time. And, yes, it was good to see my own personal editor standing there having coffee and a treat! You can have all the treats you want Diana for all the work you do to keep my stories grammatically on target. (After all this is a school! The pressure is on!) Oh, and let's not forget our very own treasurer who brings with her cute helpful lad Ryan, who by the way is growing like a weed. I wonder if he will beat Jack in the growth department. Hmm . . . The tablecloth survived the spill just fine Judi, just to let you know. Julie H., I can't tell you how good it was to see you there because I haven't seen you much. I miss you! I am glad you were able to take a goodie or two as you dashed to your Job!

So, see what you missed? Next time will you come and join me and the others at our 'First Friday of the Month' Coffee gathering? Guys can come too, you know (as in men/fathers, although I guess technically you have to be a father, not just a guy, to come to our FFotMC)! I like the guys there, it adds a little unexpected twist to the whole thing! So remember the next one is in January! I'll remind you, OK? Ta Ta for now!

—Ann Buller

# A Question Not Just for REACH But For Life

I went out last night to get my new issue of Shambhala Magazine.

This week has been unbelievable. I felt as if I were riding the waves (that's why I needed my copy of Shambhala) that were coming into the Sonoma coastline. You know the ones, the ones the news stations were touting as dangerous; the ones that I believe took a life. Then this afternoon as I took a breather, sitting by the fire to try to get warm and slow down, magazine in hand, I started to drift off in my mind (another reason for picking up the magazine) and what came up for me was writing for this week's newsletter and the question: How do you listen? Can we visit this question too often? I know I don't. But isn't it one of the keys to life?

How do you listen to your children?

How do you listen to your significant others?

How do you listen to family members?

How do you listen to authority?

How do you listen to friends?

How do you listen to your intuition?

How do you listen to the Earth?

How do you listen to Nature?

How do you listen to the silence?

How do you listen to your own words?

How do you listen to anger?

How do you listen to information?

Listening with frustration?

Listening with love?

Listening with patience?

Listening with understanding?

Listening with non-attachment but with compassion?

Listening with preconceived notions and ideas?

Listening with carefulness and care?

Listening with total concentration?

Listening with an open heart?

Listening." It is a beautiful book. What if every family had a copy of this book and studied it as if life depended on it? I was so moved by this book, that I contacted the publishers to see if I could reprint a couple of pages. They responded with a definite yes, as long as I credited the publisher and author. If you would like to see this, e-mail me at [sajelawrence@earthlink.net](mailto:sajelawrence@earthlink.net) and I will recontact them to see if the offer still stands.

– Ann Buller

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Holiday Art Sale

Featuring Hand crafted TREASURES!

By artists Meryl Juniper and Lisa R. Fredenthal-Lee

Sunday, December 9th 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm

Performance sharing some time in the early afternoon

7528 Leland St. Sebastopol, Ca. 95472

For directions and info: 707- 823 - 5843

Come join us and support your favorite artist

Ceramics, drawings, prints, art cards, one of a kind bags, and stocking stuffers of the artsy kind!

**Sing-Along Messiah** - Interested in joining annual sing-along? Rehearsal: Dec 9, 4 to 6. Performance: Dec 15 at 3. Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 6780 Depot St, Sebastopol 707.829.4797, Mon-Fri, 10 to 5; Sat-Sun, 1 to 4.

**A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail** - All the friends of the Hundred Acre Wood make sure that gloomy old Eeyore has a merry holiday. Through Dec 29, Sat at 11 and 1. \$6-\$8. Sonoma County Repertory Theater, 104 N Main St, Sebastopol (North Bay), 707.823.0177.

### Bake with Your Kids

On Wed., Dec 12 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Patty James Cooking School is hosting a class on Christmas Cookies. They will be making Pecan Slices, Gingersnaps, and Spritz Cookies. Parents/grandparents and kids can come bake together. \$25/ person.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### 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.

**One Bedroom Holiday Rental:** For Family or Friends Very nice, newly remodeled one bedroom weekly rental 'house'. Thinking of renting this sweet place (next to our house) by the week, for anyone's extra family over holidays, or beyond. All new inside: cute gas fireplace, skylights gas stove, queen bed, laminate floor, dishes, towels, small deck, tub and shower, and nice laundry inside. Sunny and private, with nice trees. \$550 per week. 2 people. Pleasant Hill and Lynch area. Can e-mail pictures. Call: 823-8878