



December, 2011

A Monthly Newsletter from the REACH School Board

A Note from the Director

During this time of thanksgiving and the holiday season, I am struck by the generosity and gratitude that permeates our school each day. I am fortunate to witness the daily magic of our students, their parents and friends showering each other in support, love and dedication. I am grateful for the opportunity to direct REACH Charter School.

REACH Pride:

We had our first trimester culmination and witnessed our students as they participated in a band performance, fencing, choir, 4th grade recorder, juggling, a projectile demonstration, a Restorative Justice circle, a Touchstone 7th grade conversation, and projects from the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes. The afternoon was well attended, the students were engaged and had an opportunity to shine, and the parents learned about the different aspects of their children's first few months at REACH.

After only three months together our band Director Dan and the advanced band had a debut performance at the Sebastopol Tree Lighting Ceremony. They played two songs: "Sleigh Ride," and "Simple Gifts." They lit up

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Treasurer's Update

By Sean McNeil, RPF Treasurer



REACH Fundraising Goal: Each month, as we get closer to achieving our goal, more of the logo will become visible, until we meet the goal of \$130,000

December is a time where we look to each other for light. Many different cultures encourage each other in the darkest part of the year by coming together and sharing. We set an ambitious goal this year to raise \$130,000 and I am happy to share some light and report that we are on pace to achieve our goal, but we will need to continue our efforts.

Here are the details on our fundraising:

Monthly Pledges	\$ 36,875.00
Italian Dinner	\$ 2,001.80
Crafts Fair	\$ 521.90
Unity Retreat	\$ 6,138.00
Other: Field Trips & Misc.	\$ 1,747.00
Total	\$ 47,283.70

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www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, December 7
Parent Meeting, 6-8:30pm,
REACH Library

Thursday, December 8
SUSD Board Meeting, 7pm
District Office, 7611 Huntley St.
Come show support for REACH's charter renewal!

Monday, December 19
RPF Board Meeting, 6-9pm
REACH Library

Wednesday, December 21
MINIMUM DAY - pick up 12:20pm

**Thursday, December 22-
Wednesday, January 4**
NO SCHOOL
Winter Break

Thursday, January 12
SUSD Board Meeting, 7pm
District Office, 7611 Huntley St.

Monday, January 16
NO SCHOOL - MLK Day

Welcome New Family!

We are very pleased to welcome 7th grader
Jared
and his family!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 PARENT MEETING 6:30 to 8:30

Please join us in a Restorative Circle. You will learn new skills for conflict resolution in your family and with your children. We have been using this structure in the 7th grade class and will be expanding to the 4-6 grades. Amos Clifford will be facilitating the Restorative Circle; he is Executive Director of Center for Restorative Process and a gifted circle keeper.

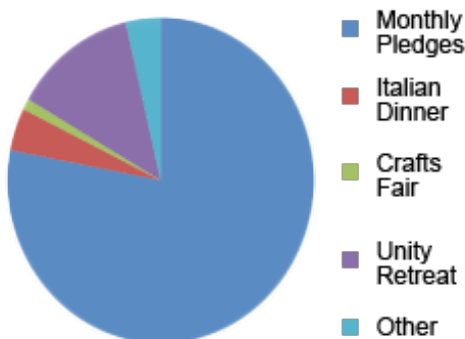
We will have childcare from Arno Boer by donation. Please bring a snack to share if you like.

A restorative dialog is a guided and structured conversation between people who are in conflict. It has as its aim opening communication, developing understanding, and coming to consensus agreements about how to make things right. It is a process that can help repair harms, support a sense that justice has been served, heal wounds, build relationships, and help develop communities that are resilient and supportive.

Treasurer's Report, continued from page 1

What you can do to help

1. **Sign up for eScrip** – go to www.escrip.com and sign up with the group ID number 154408796. Only a few of our current families are participating. ***This is free money for our school.***
2. **Tell others about REACH** – boosting enrollment helps. Our goal is 68 students by the end of December.
3. **Pay your pledges on time** – the bulk of our fund-raising comes from monthly pledges. Please honor your pledge, and if you can afford to pledge more, please do.



Class Updates *from students*

4th Grade Update

- Aidan, Julian and Galen

In Science we are learning about rocks and minerals. We did acid tests, learned about how rocks form, and are going to the Uncarved Block to learn more about rocks.

In math we are doing times tables, angles and degrees, and shapes. In math games we are doing Khan Academy.

We are also doing a project where we plan an imaginary road trip in California. We have three days to get to our destination and we are supposed to figure out miles, where to stop, how to get there and what to bring. We also have to decide what our destination is. We used road atlases and Google maps.

5th/6th Grade Update

- Ella

In Science we're learning about the sun and we've expanded to the solar system. We're learning about lunar and solar eclipses.

In History most of the class is in a transition stage from doing explorer reports to the colonies, but I and another 6th grader am doing strong women from Ancient Rome.

In writing, we are doing persuasive essays, either on a school topic (whether we should have school uniforms or whether we should be allowed electronics at lunch break), and some of us choose our own.

7th Grade Update

- Felicia and Elani

In History we are reading *Shabanu*. We're doing a project where we can either build a mosque, or do an essay on Muslim culture, or make a mosaic out of tiles.

In Science we are learning about genes and how things are passed down, like hair on your knuckles, and how cells divide, called mitosis.

We are also doing Touchstones with Ethan where he gives us something to read that has a conflict in it, and we talk about it in a big group, then get into small groups and talk about it and write down our questions. Then we get back into the big group to talk about our questions.

The Wonderful Italian Dinner & Fundraiser

(thanks to Rachelle for the photos)



HUGE Thanks to the Foggetti-Moore Family for making this happen! They raised over \$1,800 for our school! Additional thanks, for all their hard work, to:

- Doc
- Chris
- Gianna
- Gea
- Lawrence
- Nico
- Melissa
- Jamila
- Sean
- Kay
- Julie Z.
- Rane
- Eleanor
- Elena
- Laura S.
- George
- Susana
- Joshua

New School Mascot

by Alyssa, 4th grade



In student council, the subject of the mascot and school colors was brought up immediately. We brainstormed, and came up with: the pandas, the ravens and so on. We eliminated a few of the goofy ones and kept the strong and wise ones. Keeping

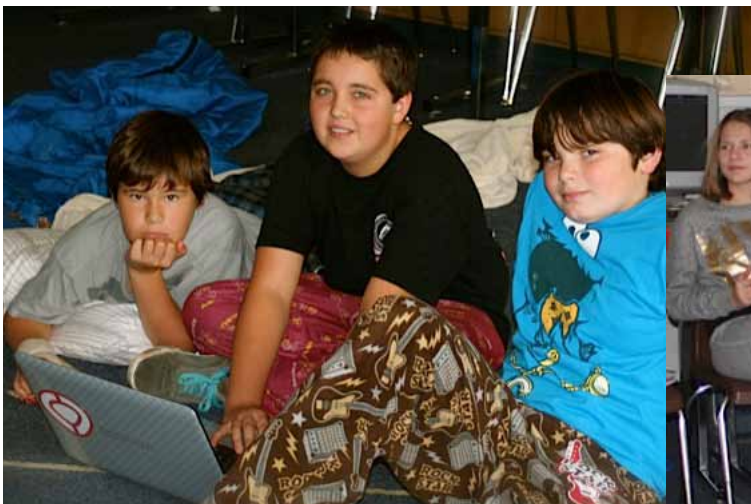
in our minds that when people see our mascot they would think of the qualities that that thing had, and assume that we as REACH kids would want to have these qualities too. Then we thought about the voting process and we came up with a ballot. Each class sat down in the library and voted for their desired mascot and colors. The REACH ravens, the REACH pandas, the REACH stars and the REACH giraffes. Majority rules, 7th grade majority: ravens, 6th/5th grade majority: ravens, 4th grade majority: ravens. Our mascot was ravens. Then we added up the votes on the colors. Our colors were purple, black and silver. And we hope that us kids decided on the right mascot and we hope that we have some of the qualities that the raven has too.

Looking Ahead...

STAR Testing Dates:

4th/7th Grade writing: March 6, 2012
(make-up 3/7)

General Star Testing Range: April 23 - May 11, 2012



Dear REACH parents,

The student council would like to notify you that we will be hosting a blanket, coat, and canned food drive. The drive will be from the 6th to the 21st of December. The food will be going to the Redwood Empire after the food is picked up it will be dispersed throughout Sonoma County. The blankets and the coats will be donated to a local church. This winter is going to be cold so please donate to those in need.

Mi Café

Several families and students recently spent a Friday evening at the REACH Library with Goldie and her partner Jeffrey Weiss, sharing online videos with each other!

The idea behind Mi Café is to use the internet, which often provides a solitary experience for its users, to create community. Each attendee shared a favorite video with the group, and everyone enjoyed being exposed to new and different ideas, music, games, activities, etc.

Stay tuned: another evening will happen in January!

Please Check the Lost & Found!

Fundraising Team Report

by Laura Shafer

The Holiday Craft Fair and the Foster's Freeze Dine and Donate brought in over \$650 to our school!

It was great to see REACH come out for the Dine and Donate. And many many thanks to the crafty folks who donated items, and to Chris Dunia and Joan Cathcart for helping me run the table and donate massage.

If you didn't have a chance to come out to the Grange, we will have a small selection of beautiful items for sale on Wednesday morning, 12/7 before school, and also before the parent meeting. Talk about a win-win for holiday shopping!

Looking ahead, a gala party with our alumni parents is scheduled for March 10. We are beginning to collect items for a silent auction, if you'd want to help with that, let us know, as we have letters and some guidelines.

Gregory (Yara's Dad), is willing to facilitate a rummage sale for our school in the Spring. We need a team to make it happen. Please check in with me if you'd like to help with this event. Wednesday mornings are regular in-person check in times, or keep in touch by email. The fundraising team helps coordinate fundraising ideas for various school needs and helps get the pieces in place to help money come to us, coordinating with our Director and our events and calendar coordinator, Rachelle. We are all part of the fundraising team, and we all support each other. And that is our community, and we rock!

Fundraising Committee meets every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 am in the Library. BYOC.

the stage with the red caps, instruments decorated, and fine playing.

In addition to that, the band and choir will go to a local elder home to brighten the day with some holiday songs.

Seventh graders have taken the lead! Student-led committees include: Snack Shack, Newspaper, Sports, Yearbook, Fun Events, Spirit Days, and Games at Lunch. All of the committees are under the umbrella of our Student Council who held a school wide vote for the school's mascot and school's colors. We are THE REACH RAVENS! With colors of black, purple and silver. Next is the design for the PE uniform.

The Student Council is also sponsoring a food drive for the Empire Food Bank, a warm coat drive and a blanket drive for a local shelter in the month of December. Please give as you can between December 6th and the 19th of December. You can bring any of these three needs (clean and in good condition) to the school.

REACH Academics:

The computerized report card by grade includes the Explicit Curriculum guided by the Common Core Standards AND the Implicit Curriculum, our social emotional curriculum as identified in our charter. That was the combined effort of staff, teachers and the Power School support staff. It is our hope that after the culmination and the report card, you as parents have a picture of how you son/daughter is doing at REACH. We welcome your feedback, questions and suggestions!

Continued next page

A Thousand Thanks

to
Our Amazing Office Volunteers:

MO

School Nurse Extraordinaire, Report Card Mastermind

LARK

Mother to Us All

RACHELLE

Queen of Policies, Procedures & Forms

Where would we be without you?



We have identified Math as our curriculum focus this year. We welcome your support and extra volunteer hours from 10:30-11:30 daily. Daily support and extra time at home is highly recommended. You get to witness that spark of understanding! Math was not a strength in for our students in last year's STAR tests and we are committed to meeting the individual needs in this 2011/2012 school year.

Maggie Discoe has joined our staff for the second trimester, offering all grades weekly science labs. This compliments the science instruction delivered by the classroom teachers, science-related field trips throughout the year, and the efforts of 5th- 7th grade students who are working with a parent every other week on entries for the SCOE Science Fair in the spring.

Field Trips and Clubs:

Field trips are such an important aspect of project-based learning. This month the 4th grade will walk to the Uncarved Block store to have a lesson about rocks in line with their current science unit. The 5th and 6th grade went to Slide Ranch on November 29th for outdoor education. The 7th grade is going to the San Jose Tech Museum on December 19th for an exhibition on Islam, their current unit in history.

Julie is our Club Queen. She is always thinking and exploring creative ideas to meet our student's interests. Clubs change every 5 weeks. This next group of clubs is: Hip Hop Dance, Italian Culture, Graffiti Art, Fused Glass, and Voice. The clubs are scheduled on Wednesday afternoons so that the teachers can have staff meetings, Student Success Meetings and Professional Learning Community (PLC) time during the week. Wednesday afternoons are a win/win time for all. If you would like to offer a 5-week club, please contact Julie as soon as possible to discuss the possibilities.

Volunteer Commitment: Supporting REACH

Building this school takes the ENTIRE village. During this time of holiday giving we ask that you evaluate your financial contribution and your time to and for REACH. REACH needs a financial commitment of \$250 per student per month in order to make us the school you want us to be. The volunteer commitment is 5 hours a week. There is much to do and while it might be a challenge to find your spot, we are here to assist

you. I will be happy to speak to you, as will Rachelle Steele, our volunteer coordinator. In order to market, fundraise, drive for and plan field trips, volunteer in the class, write grants, promote public relations in the community, help at events, be on the playground, work with the District, keep all of our financial commitments, keep the vision, recruit new families, be buddies and support when needed, help with technology, answer the phone, and most importantly, put that needed band-aid on, we need you. Lots of things can be done at home and/or your days off—so check in with us.

In order for us at REACH to do what we ask of our students—to be responsive, responsible, respectful and resourceful—we need to ask you to track the your time commitment each month and we, in turn, will provide the community with an accounting of the total hours of volunteer time as we do with the budget.

The REACH Parent Foundation at work:

As this year comes to a close, the Board is busy submitting our Charter Renewal proposal and discussing options for a different school site with Sebastopol Union School District. Each one of these areas is pivotal to our future and require an enormous amount of time and know-how. We are grateful for these committed leaders in our community.

The growth of our school is critical this year. One way we grow is through the vast parent network sharing what REACH is all about. Talk to friends and family. In January, we will be having one of many informational events. More information will be available soon.

REACH School will be on winter break from December 22nd through January 4th, returning to school on Thursday, January 5th. Wednesday, December 21st will be a minimum day, please mark your calendars and pick up you child at 12:20 that day.

I wish you and your family a holiday filled with joy, peace, good health and plenty of family time. May the light touch each one of you!

In Gratitude, Goldie

Children's Book Sale

Sebastopol Library

Friday, Dec. 9, 10am - 6pm

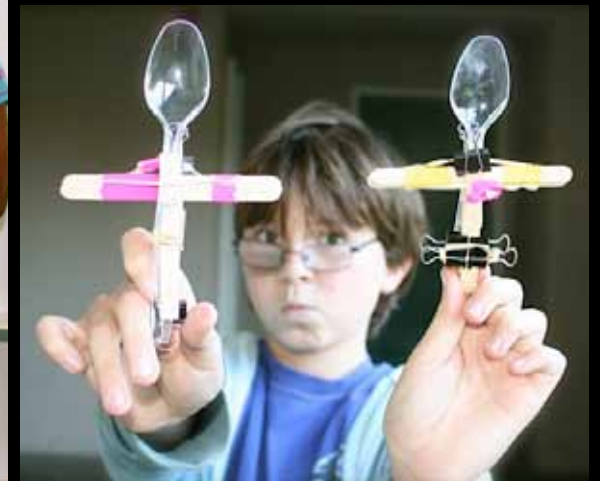
Saturday, Dec. 10, 10am - 3:30pm

thanks to Rachelle, Michael E. and Laura S. for all the wonderful pictures!

















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- ◆ Help in creating healthy conversations, boundaries, agreements
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- ◆ The journey through middle school and high school
- ◆ Setting up win win situations
- ◆ Being the right kind of advocate
- ◆ Timing for bringing up issues
- ◆ Knowing what are your non-negotiables, negotiables, and “don’t cares” in expectations of your pre teen / teen
- ◆ Learn to communicate better with your pre teen / teen
- ◆ Learn when to engage and advocate for your child and when to hold back; How to work with your child’s teachers, coaches, and mentors; how to deal with other parents re: inclusion and exclusion; dealing with difficult sibling relationships
- ◆ Teach and model the values you want your child to live by
- ◆ Discuss the impact of electric media and social networking on the development of children; understand cyberspace—how to manage your child’s engagement with it from the beginning; how to offer equally engaging and real activities to your children as an alternative

Instructor, Rick Concoff, MA

RICK CONCOFF, MA has been educating and guiding children, teens and parents for over three decades. Rick is the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County’s Teen Program Director and Camp Director, a Waldorf teacher, and Parent and Teen Coach. For more on what Rick Concoff offers, check out his website, valuesvirtues.com. For more information, ricke@jccsoco.org or 823-3916.

2012
Sundays
10 am - 1 pm
January 22
January 29

\$36 for the series;
no extra charge for spouses/
parenting partners.
*No one turned away for
inability to pay.*

**Classes meet at
the JCC office**


Jewish Community Center
SONOMA COUNTY

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Reservation Form | Mindful Parenting 2012

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Enclosed please find a check made payable to the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County for \$36.00.

Payment Information

Check (payable to JCC) or VISA/MC Amount enclosed or to charge \$ _____

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Please detach reservation form and return with payment to: Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County