

REACH

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

Friday, December 19

Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Keeping Strong, Keeping Community

As our calendar year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that's happened this year. It's been a year of both transitions and settling in for all of us. While we've had transitions within the program, our new director and new teachers have settled in smoothly in our second year at the Brook Haven campus, thanks in no small way to the great support of the district. Our children have had transitions to new classes, new schools and new friends while reuniting with friends from the past. Our families have seen transitions too as "life happens," and our little community has gathered together and supported them. While change can be hard, it can also bring us together. It unites us as we work together, as we help each other and as we watch our kids grow and thrive. Through all this, the community continues to grow and strengthen. It is that strength that sustains us.

The reality of hard economic times is also hitting home. The state budget deficit may pose huge challenges for public education.

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www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, December 19
All-REACH Holiday Dessert Feast, 1:30

Mon-Friday, December 22
through **January 2**
No school, Winter Break

Monday, January 5
All REACH – school starts with Zero
period at 8 am

Wednesday, January 14
RPF Meeting, 6:30 Library

Monday, January 19
No school, Martin Luther King

Friday, January 23
Band, Sonoma County Honor Band

Wednesday, January 28
8th Grade: Life Touch Graduation
Photos

Pledge Reminder!

If you haven't already, be sure and get your monthly pledge in! Please drop it in the REACH box in the Brook Haven office or mail to:

REACH Parent Foundation
708 Gravenstein Hwy N. #203
Sebastopol, CA 95472

I Respectfully Disagree....

The Speech and Debate Club ended this week with the culmination of wonderful speeches given by the students. During our sessions together, we had many lively debates (while learning the rules of debating), played many theatre type games, learned how to write and give good speeches, and everyone seemed to enjoy their time, including me! I have been given permission by the authors of these speeches to put them in the next couple of newsletters for everyone to enjoy.

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The REACH News is a publication of the REACH Parent Foundation which is solely responsible for its content. The REACH Parent Foundation is an organization which supports the Creative Arts Magnet Program at Brook Haven Middle School

Keeping Strong, Keeping Community - *continued*

As a program, we are facing a tight budget ahead. Each year we build a plan for REACH based on what is pledged. Our donations to date aren't what we expected at the beginning of the year. We are working to trim the budget and consolidate where we can, but we will need the strength of the community to help us weather this. We'll be asking families shortly to re-confirm their financial pledges for the remainder of the school year so we'll know what we can expect. We will need each family to not only re-affirm their volunteer commitments but to take the lead and offer more if its possible. We're still looking for a volunteer coordinator to facilitate this!

It's when we are challenged that the strength of community begins to shine and makes the difference. Remember, ask not what REACH can do for you, but what *you* can do for REACH!

Judi Scherrer

ESCRIP REMINDER

The holiday season is the perfect time to help raise funds for the program. Each time you shop – whether it's for groceries or while doing some of your gift shopping online you could be earning \$\$\$ for REACH. Also, don't forget to use your Safeway Club Card. They have been a significant contributor. Hopefully you have all signed up by now. If you have not and need help, please let me know. If it's just a matter of taking the time to go online and register your cards, please take a moment and do it today at www.escrip.com

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Sherry Fader, ESCRIP Coordinator

I Respectfully Disagree – *continued*

I really enjoyed teaching this class and feel truly blessed to be among such bright and funny kids. I was really touched and very impressed with the time the students took to research and write these speeches. This was not something they "had to do for homework" and many said they felt a bit overloaded with homework already and didn't want one more thing to do. I told them this was their choice. If they wanted to write their own speech they could, if not, then no pressure. Much to my surprise almost everyone wrote a speech! A well thought out speech! What a wonderful group of kids we have in this school. We should all be very proud. I know I am!

Kathleen Tuttle

Arielle Rubin – 8th Grade :My fellow Speech and Debaters, I am here today to talk to you about Dr. Seuss and why his words work so well with children. Dr. Seuss was a genius. His stories have silly simple plots that open up the kid's imaginations and are fun for them to read..

The words of Dr. Seuss are easy to understand and are great for beginning readers to comprehend. His books are also wonderful resources for children with speech issues because in his stories the words usually have rhymes and alterations that require the reader to stretch their mouth muscles. A great example is that of the ever acclaimed "Fox in Sox", full of mouth tongue-ties and goofy rhymes. .

Dr. Seuss' made-up world is bright and full of color. All the characters are completely silly and the ridiculous words he makes up add to the full masterpiece. His stories require the reader to think outside the box, and he helps uncover the golden key to opening up the imagination. His creative writing has inspired play and screen writers to invent

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An RPF Thank You!

The REACH Parent Foundation would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to Board Members whose resignations were accepted at the December RPF Board meeting: Bill Akers and Kathleen Tuttle, who served as members-at-large for over three years and were part of the transition to Brook Haven School, and Bonnie Van Anda, whose service as board member and volunteer coordinator in the early part of the 08-09 school year was much appreciated. All board members provided countless hours of service and support to REACH and Brook Haven, and to their students and teachers, and we want them to know we appreciate them, and will always remember their contributions to our program.

More End-of-Year Appreciations

The REACH Parent Foundation is so appreciative of the room parents who have helped with so many details on field trips, open house/open classrooms, and celebrations during the year. Can we take the opportunity at the end of the calendar year to express our gratitude?

Jody Suchard and Rachelle Steele - 4th/5th
 Karen Holbrook and Kim Harris - 6th grade
 Lisa Doyle - 7th grade
 Ann Akers - 8th grade

The Stuff We're Made of!

Every year we all make our New Year's Resolutions Right? So this year, I was thinking about how nutrition, health, saving money and saving the environment all had one thing in common that would be a great New Year's Resolution for everyone to make: WATER! Yes – WATER! Why is water good for us? More than half of our body weight water. It nourishes our brain and muscles. It carries nutrients and oxygen to all our cells (keeps our skin looking great). It flushes our bodies of toxic waste and it even protects our heart. But what kind of water should we drink – tap, bottled, vitamin infused, is it better if it's flown across the country from Fiji???? Home bottling is the safest, cheapest, and most environmentally friendly alternative. Invest in a good quality re-usable water bottle and if you feel your tap water needs filtration, purchase a filter system that suits your needs and start drinking to your health.

Sherry Fader

Community Pages

1965 VW BUG Great Condition For Sale. New clutch, new brakes, all new valves, 12 volt, interior is in perfect condition, almost no rust, just one little spot on the trunk. It runs perfect every time and has only 40,000 miles on a new engine. Must sell due to move to Wisconsin! Bought for \$4,155.00 and have put about \$2,000.00 into the car to fix it up. Asking for what I paid due to move. Joel at Harmony Garage in Cotati has been the mechanic for the last 4 years. Please call Bill or Ann Akers @ 823-4554 for more info.

Have an aspiring actor in your house? A drama queen that needs an audience? I do and if you do as well, you might be interested in knowing that The Sonoma County Repertory Theater has classes in their Young Actors Conservatory series starting in January. Of note for the 10-18 year old set is the production of **Willie Wonka Jr.** Auditions are January 6 and rehearsals begin the week of January 12. More information is available on the Rep's web site www.the-rep.com/Education_YAC.aspx or call 823-0177

I Respectfully Disagree – *continued*

movies and musicals about his books. Some examples of these creations are, "SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL", "Horton Hears a Who", and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".

Dr. Seuss has brightened many people's lives and created many memorable stories. He was an extremely smart man who knew how to make people happy. We should be truly thankful that he wrote such simple, yet amazing stories. And so my fellow Speech and Debaters, I conclude that Dr. Seuss was a genius.

Maya Matusmoto – 8th Grade: I will be talking to you today about the importance of water. Everyday, I see people wasting water. They go to their room to find a towel, or having the faucet stay on while brushing their teeth. Maybe you don't do any of these things, and you watch your water usage; even still, you're using water in everyday activities. We use water for washing dishes, washing clothes, taking showers, cooking, cleaning, brushing our teeth, washing our hands, flushing the toilet, drinking, irrigation, gardening, playing with, and washing our face. All of these little things add up.

Did you know that a three-minute shower uses 16 gallons of water? I know most of us don't shower under three minutes...most take about five times that amount! That's a lot of water.

The average person uses about 100 gallons of water a day! If any of you have those five-gallon drinking containers at home, that's like using 20 of those each day! I think people should watch their water usages and be careful to not waste so much. I hope what I have informed you of today has made you think about different way you can cut down on your water usage