

REACH

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

Friday, January 30, 2009

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

REACH Parent Community Meeting - Thank You

I want to thank all of you who attended and participated in the parent community meeting Thursday, January 22nd. We will be summarizing the content and sending it out for those of you who could not be there.

One of the intentions of the meeting was to inform parents about the shifts and challenges that the program is moving through, and to invite participation and support to meet these challenges, as a community, from a place of positive collaboration. Another intention was to hear and address concerns and issues parents have, and begin to build an open channel of communication so that this ongoing conversation can happen in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation.

One of the requests was to outline the EMPOWER curriculum. This is the social/emotional curriculum introduced in the 4th and 5th grade and taught in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. At the core it teaches a culture of relationship. A culture that values and supports self responsibility,

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www.reach-program.com

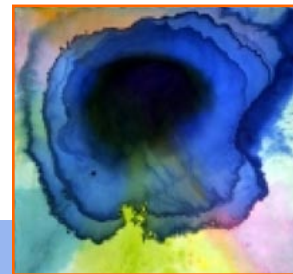
Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, Feb. 11
Winter Music Recital

Wednesday, Feb. 11
RPF Board Meeting, 6:30 Brook Haven Library

Thursday, Feb. 12
4/5 Class Meeting, 6:30, 4/5 Classroom

Monday, Feb. 16 - Friday Feb. 20
NO SCHOOL, Presidents/Ski Break



REACH Receives Major Enrichment Donation

We have exciting news of a major donation from the **Vivian Springford Charitable Trust**. Vivian Springford was a lifelong artist, and her trust is committed to honoring her work through arts education. The trust has provided \$25,000 in continuing enrichment including an integrated performing arts unit in the Spring trimester.

Thanks to the Vivian Springford Charitable Trust, this spring, all REACH students will collaborate on a project that will provide students with hands-on experience in one of many avenues of performance.

Vivian Springford (1914-2003), was an American painter who started out as a portraitist and then came into the orbit of the New York School. Introduced to Asian art and philosophy by her friend, the poet Walasse Ting, Springford's work was tempered by an Asian influence. Her 1960's work was stained and painted on paper or canvas. Bold colors are enhanced and sometimes almost overcome by areas of black paint resembling Chinese calligraphy. Shortly prior to Springford's death, Gary Snyder Gallery in New York featured the rediscovery of her work, which lay in a warehouse for years after the reclusive painter stopped exhibiting. Funds for the trust were generated by the posthumous sale of her artwork.

awareness of how individual actions affect the group, how to approach and work with differences respectfully and collaboratively, for the best possible outcome for all involved.

In EMPOWER people learn to recognize bullying behavior and how to respond to it so that it does not become the dominant culture. The board will organize a parent education meeting that will address EMPOWER in more depth, and offer effective tools for communicating with teachers and advocating for your child.

It occurred to me after Thursday night's meeting that one of the most important ways we can support our children and REACH, is to model this culture of relationship. Between ourselves and with the teachers and the administration. "Walk the Talk" so to speak. One of the core values of REACH is community. A central pillar of a working community is the balance of individual needs and the needs of the collective. Where one child might be frustrated and disappointed, another child might be feeling satisfaction and success. Both experiences are equal, and need to be treated as such. As the song goes "You can't always get what you want" and I think you know the rest.

We have the unique privilege to participate in creating an educational experience that reflects these community values. And as with any creative process there are the inevitable frustrations, disappointments and compromises. We are in the process of laying the ground for a program that will endure beyond our individual participation in it. With an eye and a heart tuned to our current students, and the younger siblings and neighbors to come, I hope you will continue to join me in this exciting and worthwhile endeavor.

*Onie Kriegler,
Parent committee coordinator and parent liaison*



Meet The Science Guy

George Macros teaches science to the 6th and 7th graders, in addition to running the Gardening Club.

Greetings Parents,

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how delighted I am to be working at REACH in a fuller capacity. In the past year I have enjoyed getting to know some of your sons and daughters as the lab and garden instructor. I am looking forward to taking on the role of subject teacher. I've already come to enjoy the program's supportive atmosphere and your willingness to get involved in your children's education. I look forward to getting to know you better as I take on this new role.

Sincerely,

George Macros

George received his B.A. in biology from Swarthmore College. He joined the New York City Teaching Fellows where he taught biology, general science, and gardening for four years at two different public high schools in Brooklyn. During this time he completed his M.A. in secondary education from Brooklyn College. Some of his successful strategies involved hands-on and kinesthetic activities, art projects, class pets, plants, biological specimens, word and trivia games, and student journals.

While teaching, he developed an interest in sustainable agriculture and decided to farm in Northern California during his travels. Currently, he grows organic produce on various plots of leased land known as Earthworker Farms and sells at local farmers markets. His goal is to integrate gardening with education and ultimately to have a student-run farm that can feed the school and fund itself through vegetable sales.



Roman Times

December 9, 202. A.D.

Veteran Gladiator Flamma Defeated! Onlookers Shocked

By *Dalmatius Capone*
Associated Press

Colosseum, Rome- Yesterday afternoon the great secutor Flamma was defeated! This veteran fighter was defeated by none other than a young retiarius Generoso. The battle was hard fought but in the end Flamma was no match for the young gladiators speed and agility. The retiarius hit with quick tosses of his net and jabs of his trident, even the master gladiator Flamma could not withstand this barrage of assaults and was finally wounded.

The slowed gladiator stumbled to attack the netcaster with his shield. Flamma was again pummeled with the net, but this time he was sent crashing to the ground. A witnessing imperial advisor said, "When the dazed gladiator looked up and saw the glistening tip of a trident at his neck," the fans in the stadium erupted with noise. Even after all his victorious battles they still cheered Generosos on. To the gladiators amazement he saw them waving white handkerchiefs, a sign of mercy. One of Flamma's fans said, "I felt sorry for the old

fighter so me and a couple of my friends pulled out our handkerchiefs and started waving them like lunatics." As the emperor and judge saw the crowds' approval he gave thumbs up giving Flamma the right to exit the arena.

The discouraged but relieved gladiator hurriedly hobbled out of the building, while the winner, Generoso gloated his victory. The arena attendant came out and gave Generoso a large bowl of coins and a rudius, the prized wooden baton that gave Generoso freedom out of the arena.

After the emperor gave Generoso permission to leave the crowd howled and whooped with joy. The gladiator was taken by the slaves so they could massage him and remove his armor for his own comfort. As Generoso exited the premises he grinned and said "Just think, after this I'll be the star of all Rome and be praised and partied for weeks on end!"

Last night it was heard throughout all the city crowds cheering "Generoso! Generoso!" Soon after the sounds of joyful towns people overpowered everything else. Some gossiping citizens have confirmed Generoso will be entering the Arena next Thursday to fight the deadly Thracian Aptus. To buy tickets go to Caesar's armory before next Tuesday.

Article by Dante Capone, based on his Roman studies.

Field Trips in March

7/8th Grade: Yosemite Institute's Field Science Education Program. Featuring experiential and inquiry-based experiences, the Field Science Education programs are held at Yosemite National Park. www.yni.org

6th Grade: Marin Headland's Institute's Field Science Education Program. Featuring experiential and inquiry-based experiences, the Field Science Education programs are held at the Marin Headlands. www.yni.org

4/5 Grade: Coloma Outdoor Discovery School (Gold Country) The culmination of the Gold Rush unit is a first-hand experience of what life was like for the 49ers in Coloma, California. This experience includes stories, songs, skits, and characterizations, all of which help to convey the social and economic community of early Coloma. www.cods.org/goldrush.html

Pledge Reminder!

It's time to get your monthly pledge in! Please drop in the REACH box in the Brook Haven office or mail to: RPE, 708 Gravenstein Hwy N. #203, Sebastopol, CA 95472

It's the Season for Talking Up REACH!

It feels like spring! Which reminds me that soon families will begin to look in earnest at their school options for next year.

Each of us can support our school in a significant way by touting our great program far and wide! Spread the word to friends and acquaintances about what REACH offers that other local schools don't:

- small class size
- integrated curriculum
- project-based learning
- commitment to creative arts and enrichment

Encourage people to set up a time to visit the school and shadow. It's an exciting time, and everyone should know about it!