

REACH

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

Monday, March 17, 2008

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Parent Meeting

David Sortino, a magnet parent, has agreed to come share at a parent meeting on Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Brook Haven library. He will give a short presentation on "Early Adolescent Development in the Middle School Years and How It Affects Attitudes." He will explore the cognitive, psycho-social, and the moral areas of development. He also has information on the latest brain research and how the lack of abstract thinking skills at this level of child development inhibits emotional bonding. David explained to me how tightly connected love and learning are which makes it so important that learning go through the heart. And that when children feel successful, it validates who they are. There will be time for questions and discussion so don't miss this meeting. The RPF Board will be the hosts and provide refreshments.—*Nancy Higham*



A Note from JT

Somehow my email from Magnet parents is getting sidelined and some is going to the my home email address . This is not good since the home is an auxiliary address and not one that gets my full attention on a daily basis. Please remember to use the work address when emailing:
joneill@sebusd.org

P.S. I have not had email available in the last week due to a computer malfunction.— *JT*



Art Jam

The Art Jam is coming up on Saturday, May 10. The organizers really need volunteers to help out. Please let Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Van Anda, know if you are willing to participate. Details in next issue.

News Schedule

The next issue of the REACH News will come out April 7. The new schedule will have issues every other week with calendar updates in between. Also, the newsletter is looking for someone to do layout next year. If you are proficient in a page layout program or have always wanted to learn. This is your chance! Contact Nancy Higham if interested.

www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Thurs. Mar. 20

Parent Meeting, Brook Haven library
David Sortino - speaker 6:30 pm

Mon. Mar. 31

4/5 Mission field trip

Wed. Apr. 2

4/5 to Wells Fargo Center
Ballet Folklorico 9:30 am

Tues. Apr. 8

Information meeting for new families.
Brook Haven library 6:30 pm

Fri. Apr. 11

REACH Activity Night
(see article next page)

Sun. Apr. 13-18

8th grade to Yosemite
Drop off 6:30 a.m. Pick-up 11 p.m.

Apr. 21-25

7th grade to Ashland.
6th grade to Marin Headlands

Fri. Apr. 25

No school. Staff Development Day

Sat. May 10

REACH Party! Details to follow.
7-10 p.m. The Tansil House



Little Prince Update



Plans have long been in the works to take the 6th and 7th graders to see this new opera in Berkeley about the children's story, "The Little Prince." The performance takes place on Friday night, May 9, at 7:30 pm. As a result of changes in student enrollment we now have enough tickets – purchased a while back – to also take the 4/5 students, with the help of Scott and Kathleen and their large van.

There are not enough tickets for extra adults – in fact two of the adult tickets we had originally purchased will be used by 4/5 students to enable them to go. However, some 4/5 parents could go as passengers as there may be extra seats; how the cars are arranged depends on who wants to go. Stacy Low will soon be contacting drivers and passengers who signed up earlier to confirm their willingness to go on the trip. We are asking for a little help on the adult ticket cost of \$60 from those of you are able to do so (since we are short two tickets, having given them to the 4/5 students). All student tickets are all paid for.

Please let your student know if you are intending for them to participate on this field trip, so that when Nancy goes around to classes on Tuesday to confirm the numbers, your student can tell her they will be participating. We want to avoid wasting money on tickets for those who are unable to go. Please contact Nancy if you can help defray ticket costs, or have any questions about this, early this week if possible, as she is trying to get the details arranged now.

REACH Survey Results

Thanks to all parents who provided their valuable input through our recent parent survey. The first steps in reviewing the results have been completed, and a summary is attached to this Newsletter mailing. The RPF Board is working to implement a number of the suggestions from the survey, and a report on that progress will come in a later issue of the REACH News.

Activity Night Party

The 8th grade is bringing back their fabulously fun Activity Night. The Activity Night is a chance for students and siblings to play games, make art and have fun while parents go out kidless. Don't miss it!

Where: Brook Haven Gym

When: 6:45-10:15pm Friday, April 11, 2008

Donation: \$10 per child

Make your check payable to Reach Parent Foundation or RPF, attach it to the permission form and place it in the Gold REACH Donation box in the Brook Haven office. Make sure you write your child's name on the check. Advance sign-up (by placing donation and permission slip in envelope) is required.

Kids can be dropped off at the Brook Haven Gym any time after 6:45 p.m., but must be picked up no later than 10:15 p.m. Activity Night participants must be age 6 or older.

April 11, 2008

Activity Night Party Permission Slip

I _____ give permission for my child _____ to attend the April 11, 2008 Activity Night Party at the Brook Haven Gym.

I agree that my child will abide by the rules set by the supervising 8th graders and adults at Activity Night and release and indemnify volunteers, employees and directors of RPF and the Sebastopol Union School District arising out of or in connection to my child's participation at Activity Night.

I can be reached at the following number(s):

Parent signature

My child may watch a movie with the following rating:

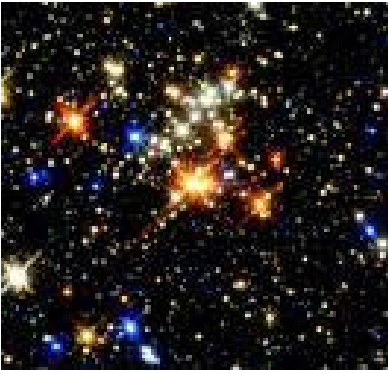
G Rating PG Rating

PG-13 Rating

Check all applicable ratings

Please indicate any special needs (allergies, etc.)

4/5 Looks to the Stars



This week in science, with Ms. Discoe, we learned about our solar system and how stars are formed. Stars are formed when a big gas cloud called a nebula brings more gases together. Then gravity makes it spin, and the nebula, with the gravity and other

gases, makes a star. I also learned that our sun is just a medium size star and a dog star is a BIG star. After we learned about how stars are made we learned about different gases. Ms. Discoe helped us assemble things called spectroscopes. Then she put little gas tubes into electric plugs. That made the gas excited and we could see (through the spectroscope) the color in the gas. The spectroscope showed us lines that were made of gas. I feel like I learned a lot from this class. I am looking forward to our next class.— *Gabi Edman*

This week in science we looked at a slide show that showed pictures of stars, the sun and planets. We looked through the spectroscopes at gas. The different gases had different colors. We looked at hydrogen, mercury and oxygen. We also talked about filtered water and clean water (referring to our tadpole habitat in class). Next week we are going to make solar ovens. We all need to bring large cardboard boxes. It was an exciting class!
— *Noah Kreigler-Allen*

Espanol Returns!

Spanish has returned to room 10! What a fantastic, animated, and interactive class Mr. Ben Lev conducted. The kids were fascinated with his fast paced, yet attainable, style. He allowed for individuality and creativity to flow into the learning and the kids ate it up. His storytelling and ‘go where the students take you’ style works very well. Even with all of the fun the kids were having, Mr. Lev was still able to cover all of the material he had intended. Not one student took their eyes off of him during the entire lesson. In only a half hour they covered more Spanish vocabulary than I could ever hope for. It was also an opportunity for him to gauge where the students were and how much language they already know. I’m excited knowing that Mr. Lev has joined our team of teachers. I am looking forward to next week’s class to watch the excitement of the kids as they learn something new and exhilarating!— *Melissa Hall*

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Down the Drain - Hands-on activities explore water cycle, erosion, floods, watersheds, aquatic life and how creeks are harmed. For all ages. Through May 30; Wed-Sun, 12 to 5. 707.539.2865. Environmental Discovery Center, Spring Lake, Violetti Road, Santa Rosa, 707.539.2865.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference - Seventh and eighth grade girls from Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties, sign up now for annual math and science conference conducted by women in those fields held Apr 12. Registration deadline: Mar 28. \$15; scholarships available, 707.664.2241. Sonoma State University, 1801 E Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, 707.664.2880.

The Fairies of Boglewood - Actors’ Theater for Children presents Max Bush’s fun story of greedy humans who try to steal gold from fairies. Ending Mar 22; Fri at 7:30; Sat at 1 and 3:30; Sun at 2:30. \$5, 707.544.5995. Steele Lane Community Center, 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, 707.543.3282, Mon-Thurs, 8 to 7; Fri, 8 to 5.

Healthy Kitchens/Healthy Lives - Organic cooking school offers classes on eating well. Mar 19, snacks. \$45; at 5:30, adding vegetables. \$50. Mar 21 at 9, chicken and fish dishes. \$55. Patty James, 330 S Main St, Sebastopol, 707.829.6707

CLASSIFIEDS

Tutoring available: Tui WilschinskyMath, science, English, history, Beginning Spanish \$50 an hour 829-8212Ishq@sbcglobal.net

Stuff for Sale: New dog bed/pillow. Fits a large dog. Beige and fleece. \$25 Our dog prefers our bed. Percussion instruments (kids drums, maracas etc..) make me an offer. Email Amy at amy@djunadesign.com.

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.

REACH Musicians Strut Their Stuff at Student Talent Show



8th Graders Dance the Night Away

Seventh and eighth graders celebrated the last Nordquist ballroom dance class with a big blowout party last Friday. Over 500 dancers swung, gyrated and munched on cookies till the wee hour of the evening.

