



Latest News from the RPF

Paul Schwebel

In case you were asking yourself, "What did the RPF board do at their March meeting?" I'll tell you. First we discussed a proposal by the indispensable Julie Heinsen about having a permanent part-time Campus Coordinator position to assist in the day-to-day workings of the school—logistics involving field trips, clubs, volunteers; tracking enrollment and signup paperwork & emails, being a "person Friday" on campus, etc.

Speaking of enrollment. The 2010/2011 year is shaping up to be our best ever with just shy of 70 students so far, up from 49 this year. We discussed ways to handle shadowing that wouldn't be so much work for the staff. Kymm Jatton and Leslie Lowell were enthusiastic about showing potential new students the school, and everyone gives a special thanks to Maggie Peters for the grace and professionalism she brought to bear while so many interested potential students shadowed in her classroom.

Other items:

- We're proceeding with director recruitment. Two candidates have been selected to return for a second interview.
- We discussed the upcoming survey of REACH parents and students so we can begin planning next year.
- Continued planning for the June 5th year end all school pool party at Ives.
- Discussed progress on installing REACH signage on the BH campus
- Further planning on August orientation and dates for the Fall school overnight.

Save the Date!

Please save the date of Wed. April 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Brook Haven campus for the last parent meeting of the school year.

We plan to have an outside speaker come in—sure to be an interesting presentation, with questions and discussion, moderated by Onie Kriegler.

More details will be emailed soon!

-Casey for the RPF board

Mark Your Calendar

Wed., March 31

Parents invited to meet with Sebastopol Police Dept. about student safety in Sebastopol. 6:30pm, Brook Haven Library

Mon., April 5 - Fri., April 9
NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

Mon., April 19

RPF Board Meeting, 6:30pm Brook Haven Library

Tues., April 20

Mombo's Pizza Dine & Donate, 3-9pm. 25% of all proceeds donated to Brook Havens athletic program!

Wed., April 21

REACH Parent Meeting, 6:30pm Brook Haven Library. **Note corrected date!**

Mon., April 26 - Fri., May 7
STAR Testing Window

Dine & Donate at Mombo's!

Plan to enjoy a Mombo's Pizza dinner on **Tuesday, April 20th**. Owner Fred Poulos, is donating 25% (yes, twenty five percent) of sales between 3:00 and 9:00 to the BH athletic program for 2010/2011. Art and woodshop projects will be on display too!

Whole Foods Market Teams Up With REACH

By Sherry Fader

The Sebastopol Whole Foods market has partnered up with Mrs. Peters 4/5 classroom for a “Fruit of the Month” program to get kids eating more fruit.

Once a month they provide fresh, local, organic fruit and I use my nutrition education background to help educate the students about making healthy choices.

Last month the kids learned about homeostasis and the importance of maintaining their blood sugar levels while enjoying pears and clementines.

This month they focused more on learning to read labels, seeing through advertising aimed at kids and about making good choices. The strawberries looked and tasted so delicious that they rivaled any candy bar.

So, a big thank you to Whole Foods for acting locally and supporting our schools on this very important topic.

*** With fresh berries coming into season remember that a healthy, delicious snack of yogurt (we like Brown Cow’s vanilla) layered with fresh fruit in a wine or champagne glass makes for a festive dessert.*



More About Kids & the Internet

By Mariana Poulos

I recently attended a seminar at Sonoma Academy during which the benefits and pitfalls of Internet use by children was discussed. It was hosted by tech commentator Leo Laporte, known as “The Tech Guy” on his nationally syndicated radio talk show. The challenges of family Internet safety became immediately evident when Mr. Laporte delivered these facts to consider:

- 20 to 25% of kids online are contacted in some sort of sexually suggestive manner.
- Because technology is constantly changing, filters and safeguards may become obsolete without our knowledge and thereby expose our child to something we wished to prevent.
- Our children will be, for the most part, more computer savvy than we are and therefore be one step ahead of us in their Internet expertise.
- Children need only go on a computer other than their own to avoid any safeguards that parents may have put in place.

For these reasons Mr. Laporte advises that families maintain frequent and open dialogue regarding their internet rules of use. He suggest getting started with the “Kids Online Safety Quiz” and the “Family Contract For Online Safety”, which can be found on the site Safekids.com. In addition, Opendns.com offers free and effective Internet filtering for the entire home network. Finally, “Internet Safety Kits” and more can be downloaded from Pollyklass.org and Protectkids.com.

If you’d like to learn even more of the details covered in the seminar, an informative review appeared in the *Press Democrat’s* March 8 issue:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100307/ARTICLES/100309592?tc=ar>

The stories and statistics contained in the article bring to light Mr. Laporte’s assertion that diligent communication with your children is the key to Internet safety and “the best filter is the one in your (and your child’s) head”.

Also check out commonsensemedia.org for a downloadable media contract you can make with your kid



New REACH mom seeks home for myself and two children in Sebastopol. Please call Leslie (I also go by Jamila) at 808-264-5093 or email: dancerinthedance@gmail.com

Worried About What's Happening After School?

Parents who would like information about student safety in Sebastopol in the after school hours are invited to meet with a representative from the Sebastopol Police Department on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st at 6:30 in the BH Library. Officer Dennis Colthurst will be available to address any concerns parents might have and to answer questions related to student safety in town. Parents, students, and community members are welcome.

Reminder for 7/8th grade families: Ashland trip fees are due in April.



Colonial Culmination! 4th & 5th Graders (and Maggie Peters!) enacting colonial life with gusto...

thanks to Laura S. for the pictures!



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