



Monday, April 19, 2010

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

## Big News for REACH!

*Judi Scherrer, RPF President*

On behalf of the REACH Parent Board and director Karen Mirabelli, I am delighted to announce that Justin Kornfein has accepted the position of full time REACH Director for the up-coming school year

The recruitment process was a true collaboration with our district and special thanks go to Superintendent Liz Schott for her insights and guidance. We began the search for the full time REACH School Director in the fall of 2009. From 14 applicants, we narrowed the field to 4. Two interview teams of REACH parents, our teachers, RPF board members, Kent Cromwell and of course Karen and Liz narrowed the field to Justin. RPF wholeheartedly endorses Justin's selection as Director and the Sebastopol Union School District Board finalized the process with unanimous approval at its April 15, 2010 meeting.

Justin brings 14 years of teaching experience at the elementary and middle school levels to REACH, in addition to leadership roles at his school's Site Council and on its Technology and Fine Arts Committees. He has implemented project-based learning, which is a key part of the REACH School's approach, and has taught Digital Arts and Technology as well as Environmental Science. His commitment to education and excellence is a great fit for the REACH School. We know he believes in the REACH school as his oldest son is one of our 5th graders!

He will be introduced at the REACH parent meeting on Wed. April 21, in the Brook Haven Library (see below for more details on that meeting). Please give him your warmest welcome!

Karen Mirabelli will be training Justin and bringing him up to speed over the next months. "I'm so pleased that we have found someone with such passion and commitment to our school's philosophy." She will continue on in a consultant role supporting our school and its vision. Thank you all for your support in this process!

[www.reach-program.com](http://www.reach-program.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

**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.

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

**Mon., May 10 - Fri., May 14**  
7th/8th Grade Ashland Field Trip

**Wed., May 12**

4/5 Class Field Trip - Ft. Ross

**Mon., May 17**

RPF Board Meeting, 6:30pm Brook Haven Library

Don't forget to go to Mombo's Pizza this Tuesday from 3-9pm—25% of all proceeds will go to Brook Haven athletics programs!

### Parent Meeting This Wed. April 21

Mary Sue Sams, Psy.D., pediatric psychologist, is our guest from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Brook Haven in the library, discussing the joys and challenges of "Parenting Tweens in the 21st Century." She will provide contemporary perspectives on Tween development—from body to soul—and thoughts about the careful balance between staying close and letting go in ways that help our Tweens navigate the bridge between childhood and adolescence with confidence and connection. Light refreshments will be served.

## Support Our Schools!

Stroll back in time in the **Apple Blossom Parade!** We'd like to encourage REACH kids and their families to walk in the Sebastopol Educational Foundation's **MUCH ADO ABOUT SEBASTOPOL** float premiering the **Renaissance Faire** coming in the fall. Wear a simple Renaissance or Medieval costume and join Queen Elizabeth and her entourage of Lords and Ladies as she nobly greets her loyal subjects, led by a knight on a shining steed. It's going to be a lot of fun, and we'd love to have a strong REACH presence. Contact Andrea Schmitz at [ahagan@sonic.net](mailto:ahagan@sonic.net) to sign up, and get some costume help if you like. "All the world's a stage..." so come play your part on Saturday, April 24th!



Walk or run in the **FUND RUN & WALK STRONG** event on Sunday, April 25th. We'll be covering a 3.4 mile route around town to raise money for sports at Brook Haven, and other programs that will be severely cut next year. It's a great chance to come out for a little exercise on a spring morning, and benefit our students at the same time. Order some t-shirts and be part of a visible force supporting our schools. Remember to get your pledge sheets filled out, and invite your friends and family to come too--the more participants the better! Meet at Park Side at 8:30, Sunday, April 25th. Plan on spending about an hour or so...see you there!



## Spring Surveys

It's the season for the REACH Parent Foundation to ask parents to chime in with their thoughts about REACH. This year, RPF will do this by sending out a survey to all REACH parents via email. Every parent with an email on file with REACH will get a survey.

When the survey comes your way - please take 5 or 10 minutes to fill it out. We know we don't hear from everyone during the year and this is your chance - and ours! Look for "REACH Parent Survey 2010" in the subject line.

This year we also plan to ask REACH students about what they thought of enrichment, by surveying them in class. Teachers, too, are being asked their thoughts on what worked well and what needs improvement. Our charter requires that we explore these issues annually with our key stakeholders.

The information from the survey is used to plan REACH in upcoming years. All responses are confidential. Names and identities are never linked with survey responses. The REACH Parent Board will see the aggregated (grouped) answers, but does not have access to individuals' survey responses. The RPF Board usually has a retreat in the summer and the survey is really valuable in the planning that happens at the retreat.

Casey Morrigan, an RPF board member with experience in survey work, is administering this year's surveys. If you have any questions about the upcoming surveys, please contact her at [casey@cjmorrigan.com](mailto:casey@cjmorrigan.com).

### Keep raising funds for REACH throughout the summer!

Please take time to sign up for e-scrip: [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). It's an easy, cost-free way to generate funds for our school programs.

Remember to update your account if you have changed credit cards. Simply go to your account and follow the few simple steps to update.

AND don't forget to ask your extended family and friends to sign up too!

Shop at Safeway? Register your Safeway card and every time you shop, you can earn \$\$ for our school at no cost to you. *\*\*\*Safeway cards need to be updated yearly.*

Curious to know how much \$\$ you have earned for the school? Escrip tracks that for you. Go to your account and see.

# REACH Cooking Club at VIVA!

Thanks to Rachelle Steele for the photos!



# After-School Homework Club

There is now a place in town where middle school kids can go after school (on Mon, Tues, and Wed - 3:00 - 5:30) for supervised homework and recreation! Yahoo! The Redwood Christian Fellowship (on Healdsburg Ave very close to school) is opening an after school program for middle school aged kids. The director, Tony Silvillo, is offering a completely sectarian (no religious talk) program that includes homework help (complete with computer lab), outdoor sports, indoor pool table and foosball. There is NO CHARGE to parents! Parents do need to register their child so that Tony has emergency information and students will be required to sign in and out.

Once they leave for the day, they will not be allowed to return. There are information packets about this program in the office. Email me if you want me to send one home with your student - *JT O'Neill*

