

REACH

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

Monday, May 25, 2009

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

REACH News

Goings On

We are marveling at what little time remains in the school year and how much there still is to do. The students are hard at work wrapping up the last projects of the year at a rather steady pace. The longer field study experiences that the students participated in are becoming memories and knowledge as they charge through the remainder of the year. Our 7th grade has had the great fortune to participate in some Laguna restoration projects with some younger students from Park Side and have really enjoyed it. 6th and 7th grades have conducted some environmental/life science field studies as well. They're all really excited by the many opportunities they have for hands on learning especially in science. Our 4th and 5th grade students absolutely LOVED their sheep heart dissection labs.

All REACH math classes are doing a project on designing and creating models of their dream rooms. The project involves paying close attention to budgetary constraints and will require a lot of creative problem solving as students strive to furnish their perfect rooms with not a whole lot of funding. This is a wonderful life skill that they will be developing.

continued next page



www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

Sat. June 6

End-of-year pool party, 5-8pm,
Ives Pool (see invitation page 4)

Wed. June 3

Last day of clubs

Wed. June 3

RPF Board Meeting, 6:30pm BH
Library

Fri. June 5

Band Awards, 7:40am

Tues. June 9

All REACH performance, 6pm.
Details to come...

Wed. June 10

Early Release - 1:30pm

Thurs. June 11

Last day of school; early release -
1:30pm

It's Pool Party Time!!

Yes – I know it's hard to believe – but summer is almost here, and that means it is time for our

Fabulous Annual End-Of-Year REACH Family Pool Party!!

Bring your swimsuits, towels, beach chairs or blankets, a delicious entrée or salad to share, and a favorite beverage (non-alcoholic only please) and come to Ives Pool on Saturday June 6 at 5pm, to celebrate the end of another wonderful REACH year! We will also be celebrating and congratulating our phenomenal graduating 8th graders Arielle and Maya!

Check the invitation on page 4 for details, and see you there!!



The 7/8 class worked on presentations about slavery in America that they presented to the 4/5 class. They've been studying quite a lot about life in early America and are focusing on how the economies in the south and the north impacted slavery and ideas about emancipation. They are also understanding how this was a significant conflict leading to the Civil War. This latest project involved using literature related to the issue of slavery and translating that information in a sensitive way to teach the younger students.

All grades continue to work together in preparations for a whole-REACH performance event. This will take place on June 9th at Brook Haven and the REACH Parent Foundation will combine the event with a parent meeting for all incoming and returning parents. The exact location and time are to be announced.

Enrollment

REACH has held two very successful parent information evenings, garnering quite a lot of interest in the program. Enrollment is still open in most of the grades. We will soon announce the summer enrollment window for anyone who is not able to turn in completed applications by June 5th.

-Karen Mirabelli, REACH Director

Teaching Retreat

While RPF has been hard at work trying to preserve our teaching staff, the teaching staff has been hard at work reflecting on the year and considering ways to refine what REACH offers. On Thursday, the 28th, the whole REACH teaching team and Karen will be meeting for a day-long retreat to tackle several pages of notes about this year and to begin planning for next year. We're all thrilled to be able to look closely at what we've accomplished and to find ways to improve what we do. We'll be away from campus that Thursday so that we can focus exclusively and undistractedly on the educational program for next year. We really are all excited about this opportunity and are grateful to RPF for supporting this retreat.

-Karen Mirabelli, REACH Director



Signed, Sealed and Delivered!

Our charter application and required state forms were sent to the state this last week right on schedule. The state has a few administrative steps now in finalizing our charter but the hard work is done! Now we begin to make it come to life!

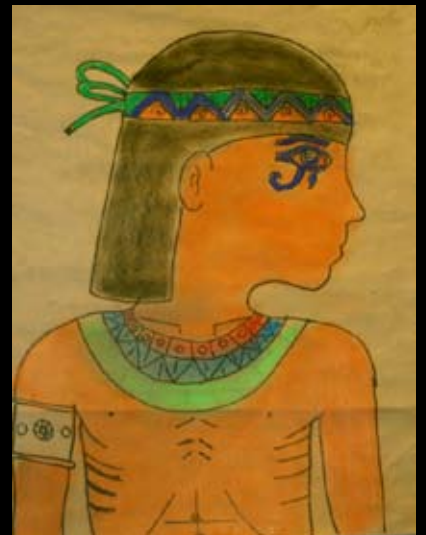
We had a very productive meeting with Superintendent David Wheeler last week on the MOU the SUSD Board asked for to iron out all the pesky "details". We are scheduled to meet again this Wednesday and I'm very confident that we will wrap things up by our June 1 commitment. We also completed our Planning and Implementation grant application this week. Hopefully we'll hear back on that in a few weeks and know our start up funding is secured.

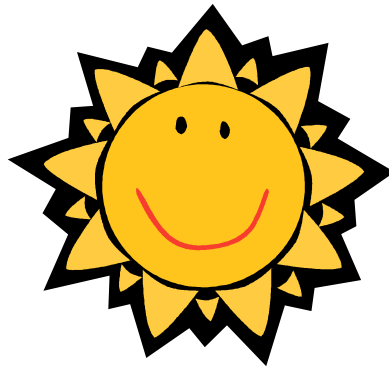
We've accomplished a lot, and in an incredibly short period of time. It's not a speedy process unfortunately and we'll need to continue to be patient. Where there is a will, there is a way!

- Judi Scherrer – RPF President

Scenes From The Open House

*Thanks, as always, to Rachelle Steele for the photos
(where would we be without you?)...*





Your Family is invited to the Annual
REACH End-Of-Year
Pool party and Pot-luck!
June 6th, 5-8pm
Ives Pool
7400 Willow Street, Sebastopol

Please bring a delicious entrée or salad to share, and your favorite beverage (non-alcoholic only please)