

# REACH

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

## Looking to Next Year...

Wow! I can't believe it's already been over a week since the REACH teaching team met for our retreat. So many enrollment interviews, so little time....Time has flown but the retreat was so nice and productive that I just have to "share" what we worked on as we reviewed this past year and established some goals for improving the program next year.

The approach was for us to reflect upon what worked well and then set improvement goals for several academic, programmatic, and community topics.

The first topic on the agenda was a big thank you to each of the teachers for his/her particular gifts to the program this year, and an acknowledgement of some of the challenges each of the teachers rose above. Thank your teachers! They have done a great job this year!

*continued next page*



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

**The REACH Anthologies are HERE!** They are \$10 each (just to cover costs) and are available from Ms. L if you did not have a chance to purchase one at the performance event. Please make your check payable to RPF.

*Happy Summer!*



**May we all find ways to enjoy it! See you on the other side...**

## End of Year Report

*-Karen Mirabelli, REACH Director*

### Enrollment

With all of the group shadow days complete for the year, I've been immersed in interviews for potential students for next year. We've had some really interesting students shadow and interview and I'm excited to see these students join their new classmates next year. It looks like a great group of students who will be enrolled in REACH next year.

### Goings On

Aside from shadow days and

conducting the enrollment process, the school year is winding down for the students. The big project of designing and creating a model for students' dream rooms was completed and turned in this week and some of the humanities classes are preparing for their final tests of the year. And, of course, as instruction winds down, the excitement for end of year festivities is amplified. The students are feeling quite excited about the end of year dance, graduation, and yearbooks.

### Looking for help this summer?

Hello, my name is Maya Matsumoto. I am one of the two REACH 8th graders. I am available for baby sitting this summer if any adults are busy with work, or just want to go out. I am very good with kids, and I am almost always free. I can work with as little as a days notice, (please, no later then that) and I know most of your kids from seeing them out in the REACH quad. You can call me at 823-0950 or email me at [green\\_tea\\_head@hotmail.com](mailto:green_tea_head@hotmail.com). Thank you, and have a groovy summer! : )

*Update, continued from page 1*

Next we focused on each academic content area. We all agreed that we liked the direction of the integrated humanities but that we wanted to work on more cross-grade articulation of writing/grammar goals for each grade level. We got a good start on this but will focus on it much more on the future.

We also brainstormed some ways to address the different levels of math within classes. We'll be making concerted efforts for math and science instructors to work as a team and to provide labs and instruction that address both content areas. We agreed that really solid integration of math and science has to be accomplished with many smaller steps rather than a giant leap, and we'll be working on taking some of those many smaller steps next year. The teachers agreed that the most recent math project was really revealing in that it reinforced the need for students to apply math in other areas (such as cooking! and small business ventures) in order for the "functions" they were performing to be meaningful. We'll be looking at using more hands-on learning to encourage that application and to provide answers to that age-old question, "When will I ever need to use this math?" This was one of the highlights of the teachers' days and was inspiring for next year.

Sort of along the same lines of applying learning, across the board, there was a resounding call for more connection awareness of the students' environments and for more consistent community service opportunities. We're looking to cultivate this much more next year.

Finally, the big hole we worked on was on clearer communication particularly about scheduling. Everyone will work to have most of the field trips identified and calendared by mid October. (The larger trips will be arranged before that.) We also decided to convert one of the windows in the REACH wing as a bulletin board for posting information. And, each teacher will have a similarly formatted website for posting relevant class and homework information! Yea! We all loved this idea—streamlined information delivered with a consistent format.

All in all, it was a great day. It was nice to reflect upon the good things that have happened this year and have some attainable goals for next year to head off into the summer with and to look forward to putting in place over the course of next year.

*-Karen Mirabelli, REACH Director*



**Here is the beautiful map that was composed by individual contributions by each REACH student. This was the collaborative project students worked on during those special clubs sessions this spring and it was auctioned off in March. The students only got to see their own state(s) that they worked on and never got to see the final product. It's beautiful. Please share this photo with them and let them know that each piece that they contributed was important to making this beautiful "whole." I was very sad that I did not get a chance to bid on the map but, thankfully, it has landed in the home of a future REACH family. - Karen**