

# REACH

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

Monday, August 27, 2007

A Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

## A New Beginning

What a great start for our new program! It could never have come to fruition without the support for alternative education expressed by David Wheeler, Superintendent, and the School Board, the faithful support of J.T. O'Neill, school counselor, the positive energy of our four new teachers, the kind patience of Kathy Courts, school secretary, the hearty welcome by the Brook Haven faculty, the unstinting belief in the vision and mission held by the REACH Parent Foundation Board and its numerous supporters, the many parents who spent Saturdays cleaning and polishing, all the families who said yes to the vision before there was concrete evidence it could be accomplished, and last but not least, all our students who were willing to take the risk to join us for a chance at a rich education. We commend all of you and say *thank you!*

## Important Reminders

- Turn donation checks in to the school office by Kathy Court's desk in the gold box. September donations will be due Tues., Sept. 4. You can also mail your check to the RPF mailbox:  
708 Gravenstein Hwy N. #203 Sebastopol 95472. If you need to give cash, please hand it to Nancy Higham, (it can't go in the gold box).
- Please do not park in the parking lot on the side or in front of school. There are too many of us to park there. It is ok to drive through for the purposes of dropping off or picking up your student, but please park on the street please if you are getting out of your car.
- If you did not pick up the self-evaluation form for the condition of your vehicle at the orientation, please see Nancy. She has them in her office.
- If you want a map of the campus, Nancy has them in her office.
- If you have not turned in your volunteer sheets or any other documents, please finish up by Wednesday. This is especially true for the driver forms, so we have enough seats to get the students to Westminster Woods.
- Nancy will send out lists of missing documents in the next REACH News on Mon. evening, Sept. 3.
- Chorus auditions will begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. See Ms. Turner for more information
- Ms. Dalessio has the following requests: Anyone having suggestions, please let Nancy know.  
"The 6th graders could use an archaeological dig and a trip to a museum that has ancient civilizations' exhibits. The seventh graders could use a life science hands-on trip... Do you know of any places?"



## Mark Your Calendar

**Wed. August 29**  
Dismissal 1:55

**Fri. August 3**  
No school-  
Teacher in-service day

**Mon. September 3**  
Labor Day holiday

**Wed. September 5**  
REACH Parent Foundation  
Board meeting 6:30,  
Brook Haven library

**Tues. September 11**  
Back to School night  
6:30 - meet in the gym

**Thurs. September 13**  
SUSD Board Meeting 7:00  
(usually 2nd Thursdays)

**Sept. 13 and 14**  
Westminster Woods  
overnight- all students

**Thurs. September 20**  
REACH parent meeting 6:30  
Brook Haven library

**Fri. September 28**  
7th & 8th grade to Marin  
Shakespeare at Dominican  
College- All day Henry VI  
part I



## Nordquist Rocks!

For those of you unfamiliar with Nordquist social dance lessons for teens, you and your teen are in for a real retro treat.

Nordquist meets once a week at the Santa Rosa Vet's Hall, near the fairgrounds. The students are required to dress up—boys wear suits, ties and dress shoes with black socks and girls must wear dresses (below the knee, please!) and white gloves. Since it is hard to find suits for middle school boys, there are some used ones for sale before the class.

The students learn how to cha-cha, rhumba, two-step and much more. They will probably be teaching you a few moves before the semester is through.

Most kids find the class a great way to meet the opposite gender while having strict guidelines about what one is supposed to do. Ask any parent of a Nordquist student, and they'll probably say their kid loved it. Most students from REACH attend and have a blast. So, fill out the forms and if you turn them in to Nancy this week, she will deliver all of them to the Nordquists.

If you didn't get a brochure or already sent yours in to the old address, you can download the sign-up form here: <http://www.nordquistedance.com/registration.html>

The price for the classes is \$250.00. It is open to the 7th and 8th graders. Be sure and ask around for a carpool.

Scholarships are available but your completed form will need to be turned in this week to Nancy with a check for the amount you can do and we will apply the scholarship money to your balance due.

## Going Green...Literally.

Are you a parent who loves to garden and appreciates the beauty of trees? Are you a parent who is looking for a place that you could donate to the REACH program? Are you a parent who is devoted to environmental issues? Are you just plain excited about this program? We, as parents

and kids, too, have a terrific opportunity to contribute to our REACH program, beautify the school grounds where our children dwell during the week, and improve the general health of our environment.

As you know, many wonderful parents have already donated precious time and energy to begin creating a lovely, picturesque quad for the children to enjoy. A beautiful environment is essential for a more conducive learning experience. The quad has three planting sections, already prepped by our hard-working parents, that require shade trees. Si Edman (parent/landscape architect) will be buying ornamental pear trees for this project.

A very clever parent (I wish I could remember who that was!) came up with the idea of having parents sponsor or underwrite these trees by making donations to purchase them. Si, according to my sources, will be buying trees that are a bit more mature, quickly establishing that beautiful green presence that will make such a difference.

Think about your family sponsoring/underwriting a tree! Getting together with other families to co-sponsor a tree is also a great idea! Get your children involved as well! This is a perfect way to lend a hand in the creation of something good. Give a gift of a living thing! Stay tuned...more information will be coming soon on how you and your family can help out with this "Going Green" project!



## String Ensemble

Karen Zimmerman is our new teacher for the once a week String Ensemble. She is a graduate of Juilliard with a Masters degree. Karen plays bass for the Santa Rosa Symphony. Karen is a coach for the Santa Rosa symphony Music Education Dept. and has access to lots of good music.

All the string players should try it for the 3 sessions in September and then make a decision about continuing. It will either be Thursdays or Fridays during first period in the Band Room. I will let you know in the next REACH News which day. Please bring your instrument that day next week. Contact Nancy Higham for more information.

## Visit Our New Website!

The REACH program maintains a website at [www.reach-program.com](http://www.reach-program.com) where parents can keep up to date with the program, classes and events. Right now the website contains most of the information from the Handbook and bios of our teachers. But we hope to set up individual pages where the teachers can post about assignments, projects, due dates and field trips. The website also keeps the calendar up-to-date and accurate. Most of all, we want to make the website as useful as possible to REACH parents. For instance, we're looking at creating a community section for sharing information about events and resources around Sebastopol. E-mail ideas, requests and complaints to Richard Koman at [rkoman@gmail.com](mailto:rkoman@gmail.com).

Visit [reach-program.com](http://reach-program.com) regularly and stay involved!

## Newsletter Submissions

We are doing newsletter and website submissions a little differently this year. All copy for the newsletter or the website must be sent to Nancy Higham at [nchigham@sonic.net](mailto:nchigham@sonic.net). All submissions for Monday's newsletter **must** be sent to Nancy by Friday or they won't get posted until the next week.

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.

**Library volunteers**- There will be a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 2:00 in the library to learn how to be a volunteer, record books, what the rules are, and get any questions answered. We can look at the schedule and see how that fits for everyone. The data here came off the volunteer forms. Maybe we will need a couple of parents who are really flexible to stay in reserve as substitutes so we never have to close for lack of an adult. Library service will then start on Monday, Sept. 10. We will have to plan how we cover the days we are gone to Westminster Woods that week on Thursday and Friday. Until that meeting, we are covering the library being open at noon at J.T.'s request. Ann Buller and Irmgard Nierenberg have been trained enough to do that.

Anyone else who wants to come to the information meeting to see what is involved is welcome.

## Tentative Library Schedule (based on volunteer survey responses)

Time Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before School</b> 7:50 to 8:50	Irmgard Nierenberg	Aurora Thompson	Irmgard Nierenberg	Mete Senocak	Irmgard Nierenberg Sharon Slowley
<b>Noon Lunch</b> 12:45 – 1:15 Wed. 12:05 – 12:35	Irmgard Nierenberg	Casey Morigan	Irmgard Nierenberg	Stewart Slowley	Irmgard Nierenberg
<b>After School</b> 2:55 to 3:30	Frieda Weiss	<b>Homework Club</b>	<b>No Library staff meetings there</b>	<b>Homework Club</b>	Ellen Shick

Others expressing interest who should come to the meeting and will be plugged in where the heaviest usage occurs: Natasha Dallin Diana Badger (after school) Jody Suchard, John Thompson (after school)

**Noon Yard Duty**- Please come this week if you are able while Ann Builer and I are still doing yard duty so we can begin to train you. If you are willing to be on the list as a sub that would be great. Let Nancy know. We have just one gap.

Time Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Noon Lunch</b> 12:34– 1:14 Wed. 11:55 – 12:25	Cinnamon Marquardt Ann Buller Carolyn Bellfy	Steve Oppenheim Bonnie Van Anda ? need one	Kathleen Van der Horst Ileana Champlain Jenny Sortino	Steve Oppenheim Bonnie Van Anda Jody Suchard	Tony McGuigan Amy Smith Julie Heinson