

REACH

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

Friday, September 26, 2008

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter from the REACH Parent Foundation

Westminster Woods

by Arielle Rubin

On September 18th and 19th the REACH students and teachers took a field trip to Westminster Woods. At the challenge course, many laughs were shared and many fears were faced. Everyone grew a little in those two short days.

The first course the eighth graders participated in was the Static Course, a course where you control your own ropes. They had done the same one the year before but this year the eighth grade worked toward going even farther in goals and some even tried the course blindfolded. After lunch the eighth graders moved on to the zip line. All the people who tried it were proud of themselves and some were ecstatic and wanted to go again. For most of them, it was the highlight of the trip.



Photos courtesy Justin Kornfein

That evening after a filling dinner, everyone worked on cabin skits to perform at the campfire. Some cabins worked on spoofs of real TV shows and movies while others came up with completely random ideas. Both the 7th and 8th grade girls brought lots of costumes and props and incorporated them into their stories. At the campfire, each cabin performed their skits and caused many laughs. Then different people sang and led songs, and then it was time to go to bed.

The next morning after packing up, everyone started their last activities. The eighth graders first went on the Giant's Ladder, a large cargo net with wooden logs above it, each about four feet from each

continued next page



www.reach-program.com

Mark Your Calendar

September 26

Marin Shakespeare Field

Trip: *Much Ado About*

Nothing, Grades 6-8

October 6

Mary's Pizza Shack Benefit

October 8

REACH Parent Foundation

meeting

6:30pm in the Brook Haven Library

October 10

Four Winds Performance at

Wells Fargo Center, Grades 4 & 5

October 15

REACH Parent Meeting

**VOLUNTEERS
Wanted!!!**

Karen Mirabelli is still seeking assistance with paper work, filing, and basic administration. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Please email Karen at REACH. director@gmail.com.

We also need a volunteer on Fridays in the library, from 12:35-1:15. Contact Bonnie Van Anda at bvananda@comcast.net or 829-3919.

other. Some of them had already been on it but they still tried to go farther and reach a higher goal than before. Then they went on the Redwood Swing. After finishing the ropes activities everyone had time to either swim or go to the large cargo net. Once that was over it was time to leave. Everyone left the ropes course with new strengths inside them. Everyone pushed themselves to reach the goals they set inside.

Big Thank You!

Thanks to all the drivers and chaperones who contributed their time and energy to the fabulous Westminster Woods field trip. Also thanks to **Bonnie Van Anda** and all the Room Parents for helping organizing the team. These valuable Room Parents have been so very helpful at this start of the year: 4/5: **Rachelle Steele and Jody Suchard**; 6th: **Kim Harris and Karen Holbrook**; 7th: **Lisa Doyle**; 8th: **Ann Akers & Marti Kerzin**.
Thank you!

Get Your Paperwork In!

Please, if you haven't yet turned in your start-of-the-year paperwork, especially your Volunteer forms, please do so. You can put it in the REACH box by Kathy Court's desk in the school office. If you have any questions about this, please call or email Bonnie Van Anda at bvananda@comcast.net or 829-3919.

About Your Newsletter

Time Change

Those of you who have read your Parent Handbooks should know that the newsletter is due out every other Monday. But today is Friday! Yes, due to the different schedules of this year's excellent volunteer team, you can expect your newsletter by email every other Friday. Thank you **Leila Rand** for volunteering your layout expertise, **Tricia Watts** for editing and writing, **Laurie Rubin** for heading up Classifieds and helping to gather articles and **Diana Badger** for coordinating it all.

For anyone wanting to place an announcement or write something up for the newsletter (most welcome!) please know that the deadline to send copy to dianabadger@mcn.org is every other Tuesday noon preceding the Friday publish date.

Classified Announcements

For future issues, please send any community events, for sale, and other classified announcements of interest to the REACH community to Laurie Rubin at earthlaurie@earthlink.net

Artist Andy Goldsworthy

Artist Andy Goldsworthy's sense of home/place was deepened by his intimate relationship with the raw materials of his native land—Great Britain. Andy collaborated with nature to produce stunning sculptures, using materials such as stones, leaves, ice, snow, wood—even sheep's wool. Many of his finished works have a lifespan of only moments or minutes or hours, until carried away by the incoming tide, or the wind, or melted by the sun.

Students of grade 4/5 are currently exploring the theme of home/



place. They became familiar with the works of Goldsworthy through the DVD, 'Rivers and Tides' and through many of the beautiful coffee table books displaying the photographs of his works (available at the public library). Students collected natural materials from their own living

environments and the environment of the school and then enthusiastically composed their own Goldsworthy inspired sculptures. Their finished works were photographed and then left in place to bring delight to passersby.

- Art Teacher, Judy Timmerman



Curriculum Update

October 3rd will mark the close of the integrated humanities units that REACH students have been working on. 4/5 has been focusing on a unit entitled “Home/Place” and have been researching various homes and places of Native Americans as well as looking closely at their own surroundings. 6th grade has focused on “Discovery” related to early humans. 7th Grade has been exploring “Structure” in Ancient Rome and 8th grade has studied how “Order out of Chaos” was achieved in early America. Teachers, students, and class parents are working to plan a Culmination Celebration to share, with the entire REACH community, all of this fun work that’s been happening in the classrooms. Look for information about the date and time for this celebration as the plans get solidified.

Painless Fundraising!

I would like to encourage all of you to enroll in the eScrip program. It is of no cost to you and you retain all of your card benefits. You can even get grandparents and friends anywhere in the country to sign up and earn more for our school. It’s an easy, no hassle way for them to feel involved.

How to register: go to www.escrip.com

Our group ID is #154408796 “REACH Parent’s Foundation”.

Follow the steps to register your Safeway card, credit cards, and Macy’s card. That’s all you have to do.

Don’t have a Safeway Club Card? I have some applications or do it in store while you’re shopping.

Every time you shop at participating merchants and use your enrolled credit, grocery, or department store cards, our school earns dollars at no cost to you.

*** eScrip is an easy, invaluable fundraising opportunity. REACH could potentially earn thousands of dollars so please don’t hesitate to ask me any questions or for help in getting signed up.

- Sherry Fader, eScrip Coordinator
829-5995

REACH Fundraisers: Foster’s Freeze & Mary’s Pizza Shack!

Our Foster’s Freeze fundraiser will run through the end of Sept. –bring your coupons and a percentage of your spendings will be donated to REACH. Treat your family to soft serve (and more) now while it’s still warm! Pick up extra coupons in the Brook Haven office near the REACH box.

And, on **Tuesday, October 6th**, plan to either dine or order take out from Mary’s Pizza (off Hwy 116 next to Long’s) in Sebastopol. Print the attached coupon (or pick one up at school) and bring it with you to ensure that a percentage of your bill comes back to REACH. Offer good all day and evening.

Requests for Donations

Our Sculpture Clubs class is seeking:

- old newspapers for protecting desks
- silicone seal from Sebastopol Hardware (8-10 tubes total)
- and ZINE CLASS needs to borrow at portable Xerox machine ASAP!!!

If you can help with this, please bring donations to either Karen Mirabelli’s office (Rm 8) or to Room 10 (4/5 classroom). Thank you!

Help Make a Difference!

SUSD School Board Seeking Representative

The Sebastopol Union School District Board is actively seeking a candidate for a two-year term on the school board, starting Dec. 09. The SUSD Board hires the Superintendent and sets policies for the District– it would be fabulous to have another REACH parent voice representing us. Since only two people filed for the three Board openings this year, there will not be an election this November; the Board will simply appoint the fifth trustee. I’ve been on the Board since December 2004 and have found the work requirement to be very manageable, with one Board meeting per month and very occasional extra meetings. You must live within the district to serve. Pick up your application at the District office, 7611 Huntley St., behind Park Side School, and file by October 15th. Feel free to call me with any questions.

- Laurie Rubin, Arielle’s mom (8th grade), 829-7950

Nordquist Dance Classes Soon in Swing!

Nordquist Dance Classes start Tuesday, October 7th, at the Veteran’s Memorial Bldg in Santa Rosa. Classes for new students are from 7-8 pm. Please visit www.nordqustdance.com for more detailed information on dress code, as well as the option to sign up and pay online. This program is generally geared toward 7th graders and older. This has traditionally been a popular REACH program, enthusiastically promoted by our outgoing director, Nancy Higham. Let’s keep up the tradition! There are typically lots of students from Sebastopol attending so carpooling is highly advisable. (Drop off and pick up can be quite congested.)



Dine & Donate

Please join Mary's Pizza Shack in supporting
**REACH/BROOKHAVEN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
at a Dine & Donate Fundraiser on
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2008!

Bring this flyer to Mary's Pizza Shack in Sebastopol and support the Reach/Brookhaven Middle School. Twenty percent of your purchase will be donated to the school when you present this flyer with your order.

Mary's Pizza Shack serves homemade pizzas, pastas, salads and soups perfect for the whole family.

www.maryspizzashack.com

Valid all day for Dine-In, Take-Out & Delivery, plus Gift Card purchases.

Sorry, no coupons, discounts or "Mary's Money" will be accepted for payment with this fundraiser. Donations will be given for purchases of gift cards, or for payments with gift cards, but the same gift card cannot be used in both transactions. This flyer cannot be distributed at the restaurant or in the vicinity. This flyer must be presented in order for the group to receive the donation. Valid only for the date and location specified.

**Sebastopol
(707) 829-5800**