



FAITH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to give hope to disadvantaged children by showing them God's unconditional love and by guiding them into becoming whole persons - socially, intellectually and spiritually.

June 2004

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

THANKS TO

- Tim, Jessalyn and Tyler Peters for donating an extensive set of Leggos and table via Bentley School. The happy recipient is Emerson Elementary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- TYM's Summer Camp for City Kids - July 6-10, Oakland Girls/July 13-17, Oakland Boys (please pray for them).
- 'Bear Fruit 2' benefit concert - Nov. 13, 7pm at Skyline High School. Featuring Fret Not, NewSong, Pacific Boy Choir, Soul Sistas Dancers, orators and much more! Tickets available on our website soon!

www.faith-network.com

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us :

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An Artist Visits Emerson Elementary

On May 18, Keith Criss presented the Bear Fruit 2 logo art project to the 4th grade class at Emerson Elementary. The teacher, Mr. Allen, was receptive and the kids were excited about participating in something they felt was important. Keith was introduced as a published illustrator and artist. He gave the class a sample



Keith Criss works with Mr. Allen's 4th grade class at Emerson Elementary on an art project for the Bear Fruit 2 Concert.

of his work, and they were impressed. The students used their creativity and imaginations to make each logo unique. Selected art will embellish our Bear Fruit 2 Benefit Concert.

Parent Empowerment Workshops at Webster Academy

Two parent empowerment workshops, sponsored by Faith Network, were recently held at Webster Academy. Zaretta Hammond's presentation was well received by K-3rd grade parents as she addressed how to develop schedules at home that support learning, tips for helping with homework, literacy development ideas, and tips on discipline/behavior modification. Quotable quotes:



- Children who become good readers enter school with 10,000 hrs. of exposure to books, letters, vocabulary. Each 10,000 hrs = 1 yr of kindergarten.
- Low income children begin school with a 5,000 word vocabulary vs. middle-income children who come to school with a 20,000 word vocabulary.
- The child who struggles to read in first or second grade without intense help will still be struggling in the 11th grade.
- Children lose up to ½ grade of knowledge between June and September.
- The most important teacher is the parent.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

Faith Network was founded three years ago to provide holistic, year-round ministry to urban public school children. Early on someone asked me if I knew about Today's Youth Matter (TYM). When I said no I was referred to Marilyn Siden, TYM's executive director, who told me about an exciting outreach to troubled kids in the East Bay through camping and mentoring (her heart spilled out over the phone as she talked a mile a minute).

I explained to Marilyn that Faith Network had just been formed to rally faith-based support for urban public schools, and that we were looking for collaborative partners. Warmly enthusiastic, Marilyn suggested that she, camp director Altus Styles and I meet as soon as possible. As they say, the rest is history. This summer marks the 3rd anniversary of our partnership.

TYM is enabling Faith Network to be both year-round and holistic. When we are serving on a public school campus we are there not to talk about our faith but to live it out. But at camp we can do both. We explain to our parents that TYM is a Christian camp, that their children will have morning devotions and memorize Bible verses. So far no one has raised an eyebrow. They also hear that their children will sleep in teepees, cook over an open fire, hike in the wilderness, fish and go horseback riding - all in the absence of a telephone and television (there's no electricity or phone service at camp).

What impresses me most about TYM is the follow-up. Kids who go to camp are tracked until they're 18 years old. From snow camp to Valentine's Day parties to one-on-one tutoring, every effort is made to provide each child with a loving, consistent mentor. Over 50 of our students, representing each of the five schools Faith Network is currently serving, will be going to camp on full scholarship. And I am breathtakingly aware that TYM camp could mean the planting of a seed that in the end will transform a child's life.

Blessings,

THANKS FROM

Oh what blessings
neighbors are
Kindly neighbors from afar
Bearing gifts and talents too
Always asking,
"what's to do?"
Your constant faith has
kept us afloat
In our sinking ship our
rickety boat
With hands stretched
you lift us up
From stormy waters you
fill our cup
Kindly friends we can
but thank
For choosing our school our
precious Burbank

- Shirley Bertinuson, Burbank
Kindergarten Teacher

EMERSON SPRUCE UP

Five women from First Presbyterian Berkeley's YAWM (Young Adult Women's Ministry) zoomed around from classroom to classroom at Emerson Elementary on Saturday, May 22nd. Their purpose was to sparkle up the rooms for the school's open house. Along with principal Caroline Yee, they vacuumed and mopped floors, scrubbed desks, and oohed and awed at the pet snakes! We-- Jill Hoogendyk, Sandra Lee Lawson, Tara Schlick, Angie Soong, and Rachel Zylstra-- had a fun morning! Thanks for letting us serve you, Emerson Elementary!



The Young Adult Women's Ministry of First Presbyterian Berkeley spruce up Emerson Elementary in preparation for Open House.

-- Sandra Lee Lawson